

THE CURIOSITY WORLD,

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H. J. MIRON, Editor.

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JOHN M. HUBBARD, PUBLISHER,
LAKE VILLAGE, N. H.

Entered at the post office at Lake Village, N. H., as Second Class Matter.

JANUARY 1, 1888.

A Cross opposite this notice signifies that your subscription has expired. We should be pleased to have you renew, and respectfully call your attention to the following.

SPECIAL OFFERS.

We will send the CURIOSITY WORLD to any address in the United States or Canada, to January 1, 1889—23 numbers—for any of the following:

25 cents cash, postal note or unused stamps.

500 U. S. square-cut Envelope stamps.

2,000 mixed U. S. or foreign stamps, any kind.

100 Match, Medicine, or any U. S. Revenues.

500 worth of any U. S. stamp catalogued at more than 5 cents each.

This offer expires Feb. 15, 1888.

Fred McC. Smith, of Washington, D. C., is about to publish the National Philatelist, a four page monthly.

The Keystone State Philatelist has suspended. The subscription list will be filled by the Quaker City Philatelist.

Two eggs of the Great Auk were recently sold in London, for more than \$500 each. Wouldn't object to owning a few specimens if we could sell them at that price.

For 200 square cut envelope stamps, we will send the CURIOSITY WORLD 3 months,—6 numbers—or a Gem stamp album, containing space for 600 stamps; or, for 400, we will send both.

The North Star Philatelist, after a vacation of about a year, comes to the front again. It is now published by G. W. Achard and A. V. Chamberlain, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Joseph J. Casey will hold his fourteenth Auction Sale at Bucken's Art Galleries, New York, Jan. 19th and 20th. The catalogue comprises scarce Foreign, rare U. S. Revenues and Proprietaries, Entire Envelopes, Post cards, Proofs, Essays, and a magnificent specimen of the Tax Stamp issued to the American Colonies under the Stamp Act. There are 1243 lots, and we imagine there will be some hustling for some of the rarities.

At Park Street, a little village on the borders of Bedfordshire, England, a workman was engaged in splitting some old beams from a demolished farm-house when, in the center of one, he came across a cavity out of which rolled more than 100 bright gold coins. They proved to be nobles, angels, and half angels of the reigns between Henry vii. and Henry viii. It was evident that the cavity had been made for the purpose of hoarding money, and the opening had been so artfully concealed as to be undistinguishable from the surrounding timber.

Howard K. Sanderson, of Lynn, Mass., whose articles have appeared from time to time in the WORLD, has a very interesting as well as valuable collection of autographs in his library. He collects only a few chosen series, but what he has obtained is especially good. Of the Presidents he has them all, nearly every name appearing at the end of an autograph letter. Of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence, he has fifty-two, twenty-eight being autograph letters. The royal signature of thirteen of the Kings and Queens of England make a collection by themselves. He has letters and documents of fifty of the Governors of Massachusetts, and about forty of the Generals of the Revolutionary War. Adding to these a good number of miscellaneous names, and mentioning that nearly every letter is illustrated with a portrait, it will seem that Mr. Sanderson has a collection worth looking over. He is pleased at all times to correspond with those who are interested, and from his large stock of duplicates is nearly always able to help one to some desired name.

R. R. Bogert & Co., will hold their fourth Auction Sale of Postage Stamps, Entire Envelopes, Post Cards, etc., at Leavitt's Auction Rooms, 787 and 789 Broadway, New York, on the evenings of Jan. 12th and 13th, 1888. The catalogue comprises over 1,100 lots, and contains many rarities. Messrs. Bogert & Co. are New York's leading stamp dealers, and are evidently doing a rushing business. They are good square fellows, both of them, and deserve their success.

Subscribe for the WORLD.

The specific gravity of gold is 19.5.

During the last fiscal year, the several United States mints coined \$57,703,412.

Try an advertisement in our next issue. Only 50 cents per inch for 2,500 circulation.

For 2000 mixed United States or foreign stamps, we will send this paper one year,—24 numbers.

The oldest Bank note in existence is dated 1399 B. C. and is in the Asiatic Museum, at St. Petersburg.

In 1865, a single egg of the Moa, the giant birds of New Zealand, long since extinct, was sold for \$1,000.

The Halifax Philatelist completed its first volume with the December number. Quite an aged paper for Canada.

One hundred match, medicine, playing card or any kind of U. S. revenue stamps, pays for this paper one year,—24 numbers.

We will give a new GEM stamp album containing space for 600 stamps, for only 200 square cut envelope stamps. See adv.

Mr. H. C. Beardsley, of St. Joseph, Mo., is about to publish the Missouri Philatelist. Mr. Beardsley has also started an advertising agency.

Mr. C. J. Fuelscher, the St. Louis stamp dealer, has changed his headquarters from 524 Washington Ave., to 2812 N. 10th St., St. Louis, Mo.

Our readers would do well to look over our Exchange column. There are many bargains offered there each issue and this number is no exception to the general rule.

In December, 1885, when an old building was being demolished at Svendborg, in Denmark, the workmen came upon a regal hoard. Ten bars of silver, 3,774 gold and silver coins, were a treasure-trove worth finding. It is curious to note that there had always been a tradition of hidden treasures connected with the house and the owner when selling it had expressly reserved the right to all treasures found therein.

IDEAL Packet No. 13 contains 20 varieties of obsolete U. S. stamps, including square cut envelope, War, Interior, Post Office, etc. Price 10 cents. Address J. M. Hubbard, Lake Village, N. H.

The "Science Observer" is the name of a new magazine, published by Angus C. Smith, Vineland, N. J. No. 1 contains 16 pages and cover, and is well filled with interesting reading. We wish it the best of success.

Philatelic Frauds, 40 pages, (published by Simmons, 1883,) 15 cents; Black List, 12 pages, (published by Hubbard, 1886,) 11 cents; Coffin's Directory of Philatelic Frauds, 1887, 12 pages, 11 cents, or the three books for 25 cents, postpaid. Address, J. M. Hubbard, Lake Village, N. H.

The Britshers pay \$27,000 a year to the officers who look after precious coins, reliques, etc., as follows: keeper of Coins and Medals, \$3,700, also an assistant who receives \$3,000; keeper of Manuscripts, \$3,250; keeper of Oriental Manuscripts, \$3,750; also an assistant who receives \$2,500; keeper of Greek and Roman Antiquities, \$3,750, and keeper of British and Mediæval Antiquities, \$3,750.

"C. L. P.," in Science Observer, says: "While on a collecting trip, I found in a hole in a tree, two eggs of the Golden Winged Woodpecker; I took one, leaving the other as nest egg, and continued to do this day after day, until she had laid seventy-one. The Woodpecker rested two days, taking her seventy-three days to lay seventy-one eggs. I prize this set very highly."

This is a pretty large sized story. Should think he would prize the set very highly.

50 Philatelic Papers, no two alike, post free \$1.50. 100 all different, \$3.50. A collection of 500 varieties, American and Foreign including complete files of Foreign Stamp Collectors' News, (30 numbers) National Philatelist, (12 numbers) Granite State Philatelist, (26 numbers) New England Philatelist, (12 numbers) Empire State Philatelist, etc. \$25.00. 10 Auction Sale Catalogues—Coins, Stamps, etc. \$1.00. Philatelic publications, Stamps, Autographs, Coins and Indian Relics, bought, sold and exchanged. John M. Hubbard, Lake Village, N. H.

The Literary Board of the A. P. A. advertise the American Philatelist as "the best philatelic paper ever published." We are inclined to think they are about right. The Decem'er issue is a grand number, and the succeeding numbers promise to be even better. Pres. J. K. Tiffany, Major E. B. Evans, Lieut. J. M. T. Partello, Dr. W. H. Mitchell, Robert C. H. Brock and other noted philatelists are regular contributors. The Association now has a paper of which every member may justly feel proud, and all philatelists who are not members should certainly subscribe for it.

RESOLVED, that the National Philatelic Society, although deprecating the issues of many of the smaller sizes, considers that the said Envelopes are worthy of a place in all collections of United States Envelopes, both entire and cut.

Finds of the Stone Age.

BY E. F. NEWCOMER.

Finds of objects classified as belonging to the first epoch of the stone age, have been made principally in the caverns of Aurignac, in the hills Fajole, the Tron de la Fontaine, the cave of Vallierer, Monsier and of the department Arle in France; in Kents cave, Gower and Wells in England and in caves in Italy, Sicily, Spain, Egypt, Syria, Brazil, Belgium and Algeria. In these caverns and also sometimes on the surface of the ground, or buried in it have been found large quantities of chipped flints, arrow heads and various stone implements, to all of which archaeologists usually give the common name of hatchets. The commonest of the worked flints is the almond shaped type. These instruments are oval hatchets carefully chipped all over the surface so as to form a cutting edge. The Monstier type is a pointed flint wrought on one side, the other being entirely plain. The third type is that of knives which are thin and narrow tongue shaped flakes, with one of the ends chipped to a point, and were used as scrapers.

Small round bodies with a hole through the middle, which are believed to be fossil shells used for adornment, were discovered near Anires. To guard against fraud and to detect modern imitations of ancient stone implements, it is well to notice whether the flints are coated with branching crystallizations called "dendrites" of a dark brown color, produced by the combined action of the oxides of iron and manganese, generally contained in fossiliferous beds.

The finds which are assigned to the second division of the stone age, the epoch of the reindeer or of migrated existing animals, consists of flints which bear marks of more skilful workmanship and implements in ivory, bone and reindeer horn, not found in caves where human bones were mixed up with those of animals. Numerous instruments have been found, which must have been used as needles, as they are exactly like those now used by the Lapps for the same purpose. To this period are also assigned the polishers, formed of sand-stone or some other material of a rough surface, which were used for polishing bone and horn. Other objects classified as belonging to this age, are flat points with a cutting edge, probably used for drills, earthen vases and urns which at the bottom bear traces of the action of fire; staves of horn which were probably symbols of authority; small flint sars, fine toothed and double edged; whistles made from the first joint of the foot of a reindeer; bone bodkins or stillette, either with or without a handle; and smoothers, perhaps intended to flatten down the seams in the skins used for clothing. The most important places where finds of such articles have been made, are the caves near Finale, on the road from Geneva to Nice; a cave near Geneva; the caverns at Abberville, Lavache and Chaffant, in France; and the gravel beds of Wyoming and Colorado.

The third epoch of the stone age, with domesticated animals of existing species, which is also designated as the polished stone epoch, is believed to embrace the finds made in the kitchen middens (heap of refuse) principally in Scandinavia, but also discovered in England, Scotland and France. Pereira da Costa met with them on the coast of Portugal, and Lyell on the coast of Georgia and Massachusetts. Finds of numerous hatchets and other polished instruments, near the fragments of several polishing stones, have given rise to the supposition that at this epoch there were regular work-shops in which implements and weapons were manufactured. Finds of stone implements have been made in the vicinity of Alton, Illinois; Jackson, Laporte and Crawford counties, Indiana; in Paris, Wisconsin and a few in Kentucky.

Resolution.

These resolutions were adopted by the New York Philatelic Society.

WHEREAS, there seems to be a difference of opinion among collectors with regard to the status of the 10 cent, 30 cent and 90 cent Envelopes of the United States, of the issues of OCTOBER, 1886, and SEPTEMBER, 1887, and

WHEREAS, one of the main objects of this society is, "the procuring and dissemination of knowledge in relation to the Postage Stamps of all Nations," etc., and

WHEREAS, after a careful and impartial consideration of the arguments, both in favor and against the said Envelopes, it is evident beyond question, that they are as legitimate as any Envelopes ever issued by the United States. Therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the National Philatelic Society, although deprecating the issues

Great Age of Fishes.

It is not generally known that there is hardly any limit to the age of a fish. The late Prof. Baird, of the United States fish commission, is the authority for the statement that there is authentic evidence to show that carp have maintained an age of 200 years.

There is a tradition that within fifty years a pike was living in Russia whose age dated back to the fifteenth century.

There are gold fish in Washington that have belonged to one family over fifty years. They do not appear much larger than when they were originally placed in the aquarium, and are every bit as lively as when young.

The Russian Minister says that in the royal aquarium at St. Petersburg there are fish to-day that have been known by the records to have been in them 140 years. Some of them are, he says, over five times as large as they were when first captured, while some have not grown an inch.

An attache of the Chinese legation says that there are sacred fish kept in some of the palaces in China that are older than any of those in Russia.—[Philadelphia Press.

A Cure For Wounds.

The smoke of woolen rags is a cure for the most dangerous wounds. A lady of my acquaintance ran a machine needle through her finger. She could not be released till the machine was taken to pieces. The needle had broken into her finger in three pieces, one of which was bent almost double. After repeated trials the pieces were extracted by pincers, but they were very strongly imbedded. The pain reached the shoulder, and there was every danger of lockjaw. The woolen rags were put over the coals, and she held her finger over the smoke, and in a very short time all the pain was gone and it never returned, though it was some little time before the finger healed.

This is but one of many instances of such cure, some of them taking place after several days from the time of the wound. Let woolen rags be kept sacredly and always at hand for wounds. The smoke and stench will fill the house, perhaps, but that is a trifle when the alternative is lockjaw, or even a long, painful sequel to a wound. Another instance was the wound made by an enraged cat, which tore the flesh from the wrist to the elbow, and bit through the fleshy part of the hand. One ministrion of the smoke extracted all the pain, which had been frightful.—[Boston Transcript.

Do Birds Fly Down?

I see, in a back number of *St. Nicholas*, that one of our young correspondents appeals partly to me in regard to birds flying down. But all who have written seem so well posted that I doubt if I can add anything to their knowledge.

However, I have seen a California quail, a wood-dove, and a humming-bird flying downward; but in slow flyers, with large wings and heavy bodies, the wings are used more or less as parachutes in going down; in other words, the birds spread their wings, and rely upon gravity. This I have noticed in the sandhill cranes in their migrations along the Sierra Madres. A flock, of say a hundred, will mount upward in a beautiful spiral, flashing in the sunlight, all the while uttering loud, discordant notes, until they attain an altitude of nearly a mile above the sea-level. Then they form in regular lines, and soar away at an angle that in five miles or so, will bring them within one thousand feet of the earth.

Then they will stop and begin the spiral upward movement again until a high elevation is reached, when away they go again sliding down hill in the air, toward their winter home. It is very evident that a vast amount of muscular exertion is saved in this way. In some of these slides that I have watched through a glass, birds would pass from three to four miles, I should judge, without flapping the wings.—[St Nicholas.

A FEW BARGAINS IN

AUTOGRAPHHS!

Signature George Washington \$5.25

Envelope addressed and franked by J. Jefferson, 1.00

Signature, with date, Andrew Jackson .50

Signature, John Tyler, .50

Signature, Andrew Johnson, 2.00

Signature, Ulysses S. Grant, .75

Pay receipt signed by J. A. Garfield

COLLECTORS ADDRESS

A. M. Wright & Co., Dealers in Foreign Stamps,
P. O. Box 1st Brooklyn, N. Y.

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THE PHILATELIC GAZETTE

A Monthly Paper for Stamp Collectors.

ESTABLISHED JUNE 1884.

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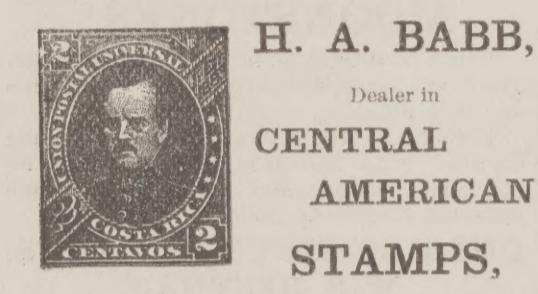
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A vast assortment of minerals in SINGLE SPECIMENS or by the QUANTITY. AT SAME REDUCTION IN PRICES.

*The GEM CABINET of four drawers filled with 100 specimens, \$8.00 Cabinet alone, 80 cents. NOTE: All the above not starred can be had at a discount of 30 per cent.

W. S. BEEKMAN,
West Medford, Mass.

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THE CURIOSITY WORLD.—An illustrated monthly devoted to Stamps, Coins, Indian Relics, Autographs, Birds' Eggs, etc. 50c. per year. Sample copy free.

STAMP DEALERS OF THE WORLD contains addresses of over 600 dealers in all parts of the world. Price 1c.

STAMP COLLECTORS OF THE WORLD, contains the addresses of over 1000 collectors in all parts of the world. Price 1c.

BLACK LIST, contains the names of a large number of dead-beat collectors. Price 1c.

PHILATELIC FRAUDS, similar to above, only larger. Price 1c.

STAMPS, HOW TO BUY AND SELL, contains valuable information for both dealer and collector. Price 1c.

GEN STAMP ALBUM, space for 600 stamps. Price 11c.

IDEAL STAMP ALBUM, space for 364 stamps. Price 15c.

WORLD STAMP ALBUM, space for 2520 stamps. Price 28 cents.

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COLOR CHART, published by the New York Philatelic Society. Very valuable to Stamp Collectors. Price, 75 cents.

INTERNATIONAL STAMP ALBUMS, \$1.50, \$2.50, \$3.50 and \$5.

PREMIUM COIN LIST contains 94 illustrations and gives our buying prices for all U. S. coins worth over face value. Price 1c.

MASON'S COIN CATALOGUE, giving both buying and selling prices of Coins. Price, 25 cents.

RARE AMERICAN COINS, their Past and Present. Fictional Values, by E. Locke Mason. Nearly fifty illustrations, very valuable to Numismatists. Price 25 cents.

EGG CHECK LIST and Key to the Nests and Eggs of North American Birds, by Oliver Davie, 184 pages and 7 full page engravings. Second edition, Price, \$1.

MERCHANT FLAGS, 25c; Coats of Arms, 50c; Portraits of Rulers, 50c; or the set for \$1. Gummed paper for mounting stamps, 10c, per sheet. Blank approval sheets to hold 60 stamps, 50c, per 100.

BUTTERFLY COLLECTING, by R. A. Meers. Very interesting and contains much valuable information. Profusely illustrated. Price 11 cents.

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FOREIGN STAMP COLLECTOR'S NEWS, Vol. I, complete, published in England 1883-84. Over 100 pages bound in cloth, with gilt side stamp. Price \$1.

NATIONAL PHILATELIST, published by the National Philatelic Society of N. Y., in 1883. Vol. I, complete, about 200 pages, price, \$1.

PAPER MONEY catalogue.—A priced catalog of all Colonial, Continental, Confederate and Fractional currency and bills. Illustrated. Price 27c.

JOHN M. HUBBARD, PUBLISHER,
LAKE VILLAGE, N. H.

An Oologist's Vacation.

BY LE GRAND T. MEYER.

(Continued.)

Early the next morning we were awakened by the warbling songs of the Wood Thrush and the Redstart; the "small talk" of inquisitive chipmunks (*Tamias striatus*) who boldly ventured nearer us, pretending to be in search of last year's acorns: in fact it seemed to us as if all the sylvan animal life were having a peaceful contest, in determining their superiority in the use of his vocal chords. Our combined efforts soon had breakfast ready, and after partaking of it, we decided as to how the cooking was to go on. It was finally decided that we should take "turn about it," one of us to take care of it the alternate day. By throwing up a coin it was determined that Harry would be the *chef de cuisine* the first day. I then took my note-book, sixteen gauge gun, and collecting-box and started out for an all day's trip, amply provided with lunch, while Harry, after washing his breakfast dishes, started in an opposite direction.

When I started out, I concluded to take at least two sets of every species I found; one for my private collection which was very defective in regard to its data, and the other to enlarge my exchange list. Having concluded to stroll through the hazel shrubs and cobwebs, the first suspicious signs I saw that would "give away" the location of their nests, were those of a female Summer Yellow-bird going through the most fantastic motions imaginable. Thinks I to myself, "Old lady, if you think you can fool an old oologist by these manoeuvres, just go on;" so I began industriously to search for her nest. My efforts were soon rewarded by finding the nest made or rather fashioned in the crutch of a small hazel bush; stepping into the thicket, I found there were five pearl bluish, speckled eggs in their warmly felted lodging place, the last probably just having been deposited as it was warmer than the others. "This set shall go into my collection," so I seated myself under the shade of a neighboring walnut, blew them out and recorded all interesting notes in my book.

Proceeding onward, in walking across a small opening between two belts of woods, I flushed a small gray bird, the Grass Finch, from the ground close to my feet. "Pretty good; she's got a nest," thought I to myself. And walking to a small bunch of clover where she arose, I found her nest containing four eggs slightly incubated. They too, went into the box. I soon found three more Yellow-bird's nests, taking but one, as they are an abundant bird in the United States, and hard to exchange. While near a clump of hazel, I saw a male Indigo Bunting making himself suspicious by his too watchful ways; so after a little searching I found his nest close to the ground, in a hazel-bush. It was a very inertistic nest for such gay plumage birds as the Indigo. There were three of their eggs and a cowbird's in the nest. Taking them to a near trickling stream in a ravine, I proceeded to blow them, using the crystal-like water to rinse the interior. While at work, I heard a *tsip tsip* close to my head. "What can that be?" for I had looked every time I heard it, but observed nothing; looking up however, I noticed that I was sitting under a Wood Thrush's nest, and the sound was made by the female flying close to me and snapping her bill. Climbing the tree, I found there were four blue eggs in the nest, but the bough was so fragile I was unable to obtain them. By the close of the day I found four more nests of this species, which I took. While glancing among the trees I found a Redstart with a bit of moss in its mouth, and thinking I would find her nest, stood still. After she found I was "not on mischief bent," she resumed work on her house which was near by. I also found two more of this species, one having one egg, the other not finished.

As it was past noon, I turned my steps campward. When passing through a heavy belt of woods, I was surprised to find a hawk's nest, the hawk being on the nest. "Too bad, I soliloquized, it's so late in the season." The hawk seeing she was the centre of attraction, flew from the nest. It was Cooper's Hawk (*accipiter cooperii*). Unable to resist the temptation to see what the nest contained, I decided to climb the tree. I found there were four eggs in the nest. To decide whether I should take them or not (I thought they were so nearly incubated that it would be impossible to blow them,) I determined to drop my knife to the ground. If the blade struck ground, I'd take them, if not, I'd leave them. After the knife fell I was unable to see it, so I took the eggs, which with the aid of the embryo hook and scissors I managed to empty. I searched diligently for the knife, but was not able to find it, but you may rest assured it cured me of further superstitious ideas.

It still being over a mile to camp, and my route lying through the heavy woods,

I could see and hear the affectionate mammas of the Crow and Nuthatch families endeavor to conceal their offspring's hiding places. I reached camp about 4 P. M., some time after Harry had returned from his archaeological hunt. He reported very poor success, but was able to obtain a rare arrow point. The barbs were so cut as to curve in opposite directions, producing when propelled, a rotary motion similar to that of a rifle ball. It was the first that either of us had ever seen and was pronounced by Harry as being a very rare specimen. He also found a small Mound Builder's Mound which we are going to open tomorrow.

(To be continued.)

EXCHANGE NOTICES.

AD—Exchange Notices not exceeding 24 words are inserted one issue for 5 cents or 3 issues or 10 cents. Over 24 words and less than 48, 10 cents for one issue, or 3 issues for 20 cents. This column is open to the public at these rates, whether they are subscribers or not.

For 200 square-cut envelope stamps I will give a blank new Gem stamp album containing space for 600 stamps. John M. Hubbard, Publisher, Lake Village, N. H.

Coins, books, eggs & skeletons; have eggs of 395, 413, 436, 505, 573 and 663 to exchange for Sea Shells, stone implements and curiosities. F. M. Kinne, 244 Fourth Ave., S. Minneapolis, Minn.

Wanted! 1st class Bird's eggs of all kinds; I can offer 500 varieties in Exchange; correspondence solicited. T. Vernon Wilson, Austin, Ill.

Colonial coppers of Massachusetts, New York, etc., and American half cents for very good to fine American Cents. M. Jenkins, Rehallaeville, New York.

Document, match and medicine stamps to exchange for others; unused foreign stamps for rare stamps. W. H. Danforth, Worcester, Mass.

Wanted, dimes of 1857-8, '67, '83 or '87. Will give 100 different stamps, including Mexico, Asia, etc., for each one, or will give a good or 100 different postmarks. Chas. O. Henbest, Marshall, Ill.

Wanted! Curiosities for public museum, war records, relics, old documents, lottery tickets, almanacs, theatre programs, autographs, prison carvings, rogue's photographs, etc. Seebach, Peru, Ill.

Scarc and rare U. S. coins wanted. Have to exchange for same U. S. silver and copper coins, Foreign coins, confederate bills. Send list of wants. W. S. Bonner, Little Sioux, Iowa.

I want 5000 old U. S. cents issued before 1820 and for each one sent me I will give 100 foreign stamps containing at least 30 varieties. Box 104, Hoosick Falls, N. Y.

A pair of Winsor's club skates, size 10 1/2, bladed top, hardened, cost \$2, used but little; will exchange for V nickels without cents. I have a lot of magazines which like to exchange for V nickels without cents; send offers. Reference, Post Master of this place. Willie Peterson, Box 14, Assaria, Kansas.

A fine collection of silver coins for a good collection of U. S. postage and revenue stamps. I would like to exchange collection complete; all letters answered. Frank P. Adams, Box 942, Decatur, Iowa.

Tags and curiosities for same. Recipe for copying pad free for every revenue stamp, or for curiosities. Correspondence solicited. James G. McBride, Pawnee City, Neb.

60 varieties of Foreign stamps for every large U. S. cent sent me 100 mixed foreign for every 100 mixed U. S. stans. C. W. Peugh, Kossoff, Ind.

I have over 100 first-class specimens of Birds' Eggs, minerals, shells, etc., to exchange for the same, or for coins, stamps, etc., curiosities, etc. E. L. Smith, Cornish Centre, N. H.

I have some fine large U. S. cents, which I will exchange for Department stamps, revenues, or Nos. 1, 2, 3, or 4 of the Curiosity World. Geo. R. Merrill, 68 Williams Ave., Detroit, Mich.

A package of bristles for every half dime; valuable prize with every 3d package. H. N. Bugbee, 339 Main St., Pittsburg, Mass.

I will exchange silver watch and chain for U. S. stamps or coins or both. P. F. O'Keefe, Mansfield Valley, Pa.

A genuine Grealeaf & Co., 5 cent orange match stamp for an unengraved 90c State. A good 7c War for an unused 5c State. Chas. Keyes, Mt. Vernon, Ia.

For 100 square envelope stamps, or plain, square post marks, I will give a set of 4 Birds' Eggs with data, or 4 var of minerals, named. E. L. Smith, Cornish Centre, N. H.

I have Davis' new Key, Oologist's Directory, Oologist's Handbook, all new, telegraph sounder, eggs, minerals, etc., for coins, stamps and eggs. Chas. P. Collins, Stratford, Orange Co., Vt.

Postmarks and Foreign coins in exchange for Revenue stamps, or U. S. half cents. V nickels, without cents to exchange. Write what you have. G. R. Merrill, 68 Williams Ave., Detroit, Mich.

50 cloth bound books, several pair of Red Birds, (singers) Blue Jay's Owls and other pets to exchange for books on Ornithology or Oology. A. J. Edwards, Hillsboro, Mo.

A lizard 12 inches long preserved in alcohol, for \$1.30 worth of any kind of stamps, minerals, fossils, coins and Indian relics. E. B. Jones, Box 173, Williamson, Mo.

3 volumes Youth's Companion, 20 numbers Frank Leslie's Old Golden Days, a coronet, pair roller skates, sled, 3 books, saddle and bridle, 3 joint fishing rod with reel, for a printing press and outfit. Also about 200 collector's papers for type. H. A. Meek, Bedford, N. H.

Fleur, Green, Micaeans, Satin and Feld Spars Chalk flint, tourmaline, coffee bean from Ceylon, sea beans an alligator's teeth for minerals, sea curiosities or reliefs. V. C. McGill, Peterboro, Ontario.

Exchange desired with stamp and coin collectors in all parts of the world. All communications unanswered. O. H. Givier, Naperville, Ill.

I will give a U. S. of Columbia 50 cent piece in fine condition, for every U. S. or Canada 50 cent piece made before 1875, with 5 cent stamp for postage. Eugene Lebeuf, Jr., Fox River Shops, care Panama R. R., Aspinwall, U. S. of Columbia.

Document, match, medicine, adhesives, rare foreign stamps and unused and entire foreign post cards to exchange for revenues. W. H. Danforth, Worcester, Mass.

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Library of 30 volumes, by Optic, Alger, Castlemon and others, also foot-power scroll saw with lathe and tools, for a large printing press, with or without outfit. Robert D. Young, Grove City, Pa.

REVOLUTION IN AUTOGRAPHS!

SOME INTERESTING AUTOGRAPHS.

BY HOWARD K. SANDERSON.

(Continued.)

The people had, in the meantime, been gradually changing their views, and when Charles the Second who had been in refuge ever since his proclamation by the Scotch, wrote the House a letter, that body acted favorably toward him and he came back to Whitehall, where he was crowned king amid great rejoicing. The Stuarts were thus restored in the national government. From the first of their line, they had insisted in the divine right of Kings, and Charles was no exception. He was called the "Merry Monarch," and to show how his merriness emphasized itself, it may not be out of place to say that he immediately set about hunting up those who had been concerned in the death of his father. The men who brought that event about were called regicides, and of them, he caught ten who were put to death. Among others was Sir Harry Vane, who had been a colonial governor of the new province of Massachusetts Bay. Then upon the anniversary day of the king's execution, the body of Cromwell was taken from its grave in Westminster Abbey, dragged to Tyburn, hanged on a gallows all day long and then beheaded. Think of the crowd which stared at his head as it was set upon a pole, which never would have dared look him in the face while living. The bodies of his wife and daughter were also dug up and thrown in a pit with the remains of Pym and old Admiral Blake. The court of the King at this time was the most outrageous the English people had ever seen, and he the most profigate monarch who had sat upon the throne. As if in reproof of his bad deeds, the people of London were visited, during his reign with two terrible visitations. During the summer of 1665 the great plague carried away one hundred thousand, and hardly had it died out when fire took its turn, breaking out in a baker's shop near London Bridge. It was not extinguished until it had burned from the Tower to Temple Bar, laying in ruins thirteen thousand houses and eighty-nine churches. All this time the merry King was having a very good time squandering money in drunkenness and debauchery. But it came to an end at last. On the second of February, 1685, he was stricken with apoplexy and died on the succeeding Friday, his last act being to send for a Catholic priest.

As we have said the autograph of the second Charles very closely resembles that of his father. It is not written well, but is a triumph of penmanship when compared with the autograph of King Henry. Unlike every name we have spoken of, it is not very rare, in comparison, yet it is safe to say that but few collections can show the name. We have a very fine royal sign manual to a folio, in 1672, which we value at about nine dollars. But it is in the finest possible condition, this fact of course, adding to its value.

King Charles was succeeded by his brother, James the Second, Duke of York. His great and only object was to establish the Catholic religion again among his people, and he threw himself headlong into the work. There is not much to be said of his reign, except that it may be mentioned he was a high-handed murderer, putting to death scores of Protestants in his vain endeavor to gain the supremacy. He was successful for a time, but at last his efforts disgusted both Whigs and Tories, and they united in asking William, Prince of Orange, to come over and be King. William was the grandson of Charles the First, and nephew and son-in-law of James the Second, having married the latter's daughter, Mary. He at once collected a fleet and came over to England, the people, in the meantime, having declared themselves against King James. The latter, at last in despair, threw the great seal into the Thames one night, and crossed over to France, a fugitive. The people then declared the throne vacant and that the Catholic line of Stuarts should be excluded from the government. The crown was then offered to William and Mary, and the Great Revolution was accomplished. The autograph of King James the Second, unworthy as he was, must of necessity be placed in a series, and as it is not particularly rare, no great difficulty need be experienced in securing it. Like all of the kings and queens, the royal signature on a document is the common form of the name, and the simple "James, R." at the head of a paper should not be worth more than nine or ten dollars. The King had an unfortunate way, however, of writing good letters and leaving them unsigned, a fact that collectors can only regret, for it often leaves without interest the finest specimen. The writer was in possession a short time ago, of a fine autograph letter of King James, upon public affairs, and of considerable length, but the signature was lacking, detracting greatly from its value.

William and Mary were now on the throne and favorably impressed the people. They governed wisely and well, and but for the efforts of the vanquished King James to regain his power, everything would have gone smoothly. The queen died in 1694, and William ruled alone. His great ambition was to pull down the power of France, but before he had a fair chance, he was killed by a fall from his horse. This fatality took place March 8, 1702, James having died in the meantime. The autographs of William and Mary are quite hard to obtain. The queen had but few papers to sign and her signature is the rarest. A good document signed would be worth ten dollars, and one of William seven or eight dollars. The King wrote a large condensed hand, which gives one the idea that he realized his importance and wished to have his name seen. We have had no difficulty in procuring a good document of King William, but Queen Mary has only come to us within the past month. It is a dainty little signature and not very clear.

The government now came to Anne, sister-in-law of William the Third, and daughter of James the Second. She was a homely, simple woman, but her disposition and virtues gave her the title of "Good Queen Anne." During her reign, the great trouble between the High and Low Church folk took place. Her rule, however, was not marked by any of the great struggles which had so characterized the times of her ancestors, but it will be remembered as one of the most important periods of English literature. In 1714, she died of apoplexy, and was laid to rest in Westminster Abbey. Of her seventeen children, not one was living at her decease, and so, with her, went out the last light of the Stuarts. Queen Anne's autograph reminds one of the modern schoolboy's first attempt to sign his name. Her signature consists of four capital letters, all of the same height and joined together, but it is wonderfully plain. The autograph is not very rare and should not be worth over eight or nine dollars. We have a beautiful four page folio document, signed in a clear hand, which cost us less than that amount.

(To be Continued.)

HOW COIN IS MADE.

BY H. RIDER.

In writing this article I feel that I will be compelled to use some technical terms in speaking of the different processes through which the metal is compelled to go from the time in which it is brought to the mint as bullion, until it leaves it as United States money. But these terms I think the reader will be able to understand, as they are frequently used.

The bullion from which our coin is made is brought to the mint in every shape and form; amalgamations from the ore, coins, bars, plate, jewelry etc. These present many grades of fineness, some of it being easily worked while some is not. Sometimes a deposit of gold is found to contain a large amount of silver, in which case it is sent to the assay department. On being received here, it is weighed and sent to the melting room, where it is melted and cast into a bar. Each bar is numbered and a piece is then cut from it and sent to the assay department, where the amount of pure metal in the bar is ascertained. After this it is ready for the refiner. The bars are about twelve inches long, half an inch thick and from one to two and a half inches wide, according to the coin for which it is to be used.

When the bars or ingots have been approved, the next operation is to bring them to a red heat so they can be rolled easily; they are then run between steel rollers so arranged that the bar can be reduced to the thickness of the coin to be made. From this the flattened bars are taken to a drawing bench in which the strips or bars are drawn through drawing dies to reduce the strips to the exact thickness. The strip is next passed through a cutting press and pieces of the proper size are cut from it. In this press the pieces are cut at the rate of one hundred and sixty per minute! After this process the remainder of the strip is returned to the melting room. The pieces or planchets are next taken to the coining room and are passed through the milling machine. This process consists of dropping the pieces into an upright tube and as they descend they are caught in the edge of a wheel and carried about a quarter of a revolution, during which the edge of the piece is compressed and forced up, on account of the space between the wheel and the rim being a little less than the diameter of the piece. The number of pieces that can be milled in this machine per minute, varies according to the size, but of half dimes the number is five hundred and sixty per minute on an average.

The pieces are next tempered, cleaned and whitened and in the case of gold coins, they are weighed piece by piece. The silver pieces are not weighed until completed when they are weighed in bulk.

The milled pieces are now ready to receive the last impression, this being given by the coining press. This machine receives the pieces through a tube from a workman; as the coin reaches the bottom of the tube, it is seized by a pair of fingers, carried forward and placed in a steel collar between the dies. While the fingers are returning for another piece, the dies close in on the one within the collar and impress it without noise. The fingers as they grasp another piece from the tube, also take the finished coin, and while conveying a second piece to the die, they carry the coin off and drop it into a box placed to receive them. This finishes the process of making coin, but a short description of the coin presses may not be out of place in this article. These presses are made of different sizes to suit the variety of coins. They are usually run so as to strike sixty pieces per minute of the half dollar, seventy-five per minute of the quarter dollar and ninety of the dime and half dime.

The dies are prepared by engravers employed at the mint for this purpose. The dies are first made in soft steel and are afterwards finished and hardened. This is called multiplying die, as it is used to impress other pieces of steel which are hardened and used for striking the coins. The original die goes through such an expensive operation, that it is never used for striking the coins, but only for making other dies. These latter when in use will last about two weeks running daily.

RARE BRITISH AMERICANS.

BY WILL M. CLEMENS.

Few stamps of North America are more to be desired by collectors than those of Vancouver's Island and British Columbia. Vancouver is an island belonging to Great Britain, lying off the north-west coast of North America. It is 300 miles long from north-west to south-east and 75 miles in greatest breadth. The area is 14,000 square miles. The town of Victoria is the residence of the British governor. The possession of Vancouver's Island was secured by Great Britain by the Oregon treaty in 1846. British Columbia was established in 1858, on the Pacific coast. It contains about 200,000 square miles.

In 1861, a postage stamp was issued for the joint use of British Columbia and Vancouver's Island. It was a 2 1/2 pence, of rose color. Upon the separate organization of the colony of British Columbia, Vancouver's Island in 1865, used stamps of a distinct design. These stamps bear the watermark in the paper CC and crown. They were issued unperfected and were afterward perforated. The issue consisted of 5 cent rose, and ten cent blue. In 1865, British Columbia issued a single value 3 pence blue, with the watermark CC and crown. In 1868, a full series was issued, of identical types with the foregoing, the different values made by surcharging the value in different colors on the stamp as follows:

Two cent black, surcharged on brown; Five cent, black on red; Ten cent, blue on rose; Twenty-five cent, violet on yellow; Fifty cent red on violet; and one dollar, green on green.

ONE MAN'S INFLUENCE FOR 100 YEARS. In 1783 Webster first published his "Spelling Book." For more than a century the children of this country have in their schools been taught by his books. Over 50 million copies of his Spelling Books have been used in this country. During the long period he was maturing the dictionary his entire revenue was derived from the profits of the spelling book, at a premium for copyright of less than a cent a copy. His Spelling Book and Dictionaries have educated 40,000,000 living men—not one of whom can ever forget his teacher. Only two other men have stood on the soil of the New World, who are sure of immortality—it discoverer Columbus, and his savior, Washington. Webster is its great and perpetual teacher, and the three make up our trinity of fame. All careful readers of history know that nations speaking a common language are not long divided by political events.

When the bars or ingots have been approved, the next operation is to bring them to a red heat so they can be rolled easily; they are then run between steel rollers so arranged that the bar can be reduced to the thickness of the coin to be made. From this the flattened bars are taken to a drawing bench in which the strips or bars are drawn through drawing dies to reduce the strips to the exact thickness. The strip is next passed through a cutting press and pieces of the proper size are cut from it. In this press the pieces are cut at the rate of one hundred and sixty per minute! After this process the remainder of the strip is returned to the melting room. The pieces or planchets are next taken to the coining room and are passed through the milling machine. This process consists of dropping the pieces into an upright tube and as they descend they are caught in the edge of a wheel and carried about a quarter of a revolution, during which the edge of the piece is compressed and forced up, on account of the space between the wheel and the rim being a little less than the diameter of the piece. The number of pieces that can be milled in this machine per minute, varies according to the size, but of half dimes the number is five hundred and sixty per minute on an average.

The pieces are next tempered, cleaned and whitened and in the case of gold coins, they are weighed piece by piece. The silver pieces are not weighed until completed when they are weighed in bulk.

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Since the downfall of the Southern Confederacy Confederate money has been growing more valuable each year, and any one desiring a few specimens should procure them at once. We have a small stock of Confederate bills, which we are selling at 10 cents each, or three varieties for 25 cents. Address, John M. Hubbard, Lake Village, N. H.

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STAMPS, HOW TO BUY AND SELL.

This book, by the well-known author, H. J. Miron, contains much valuable information for both dealer and collector, and is having a very large sale. Every Philatelist should have a copy, and by a careful perusal of its contents he would know many things about the science of Philately that he never knew before. Price, post free, 11 cents, or three copies for 25 cents. Address, John M. Hubbard, Lake Village, N. H.

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JANUARY 15, 1888.

A Cross opposite this notice signifies that your subscription has expired. We should be pleased to have you renew, and respectfully call your attention to the following

SPECIAL OFFERS.

We will send the CURIOSITY WORLD to any address in the United States or Canada, to January 1, 1889—22 numbers—for any of the following:

25 cents cash, post a note or unused stamps.
500 U. S. square cut envelope stamps.
2,000 mixed U. S. or foreign stamps, any kind.
100 Match, Medicine, or any U. S. Revenues.
50¢ worth of any U. S. stamps catalogued at more than 5 cents each.

This offer expires Feb. 15, 1888.

We have been requested several times to change the WORLD into magazine form. The paper is in bad form for binding, it is true, but as about all the papers of its class are in magazine form, we thought it advisable to have something different from the ordinary run, besides, it is much easier "making up" a newspaper than a magazine, and we gain about three columns space as it is now. However, if our readers really wish us to change over, we will do so, beginning March 1st, with Vol. III. If we make the change, the pages will be about the size of the American Philatelist, and there will be 16 pages or more, with cover, each issue. We should like to have our readers express their views on the subject. If the majority wish a change, they shall have it; if not, we will let the size remain as it is.

We will give a new Gem stamp album containing space for 600 stamps, for only 200 square cut envelope stamps. See adv.

One hundred match, medicine, playing card or any kind of U. S. revenue stamps, pays for this paper one year,—24 numbers.

No. 1 of the Eastern Philatelist has made its appearance. It is published by W. H. Goodrich and H. A. Trask, of Pittsburg, Mass., and makes a very creditable appearance.

For 200 square cut envelope stamps, we will send the CURIOSITY WORLD 3 months, —6 numbers—or a Gem stamp album, containing space for 600 stamps; or, for 400, we will send both.

Robert W. Manier of Binghamton, N. Y., formerly publisher of the American Philatelic Record, has charge of the books and office of the Binghamton Gas and Electric Light Company.

Philatelic Frauds, 40 pages, (published by Simmons, 1883,) 15 cents; Black List, 12 pages, (published by Hubbard, 1886,) 11 cents; Coffin's Directory of Philatelic Frauds, 1887, 12 pages, 11 cents, or the three books for 25 cents, postpaid. Address, J. M. Hubbard, Lake Village, N. H.

The winters are long and very severe in Lapland. Their winter begins in October, and ends in June, and during the entire season they never see the sun. What a long, gloomy night these eight months must be, with only the moon, stars and Northern lights to dispel the gloom. The last day the sun appears in October, the inhabitants climb to the tops of the highest hills in their vicinity, and witness the setting of the sun, and then comes the long, cold winter. In June, they climb the hills again to welcome back the sun, and a royal welcome it must be.

One of the largest deals in rare stamps which has been made for some time was consummated December 15; 720 stamps of the first issue of Brazil were sold for the enormous sum of \$300, or nearly 45c. apiece. These stamps had been personally collected by Mr. James Stewart in Brazil at the time of their issue, and had been carefully preserved all these years. The purchaser was Mr. G. B. Calman, the well-known New York dealer. The stamps sold were apportioned thus: Fifty sets of the first issue: fifty each of the denominations 10, 20, 60, 90, 180, and 300, of the second issues, and 10, 20, 90, and 180 of the third issue; a set of the 600 value, second issue. This transaction throws upon the market a good number of some very rare stamps that are seldom seen except in large collections.—[V. R.

The Proper Method of Classifying the Local Stamps of the United States.

BY W. H. MITCHELL, D. D. S.

How many Philatelists know what they mean when they use this word, Local? This word introduced into the nomenclature of Philately has, by general usage, become the synonym for private stamp, and the definition of this word as given by a MSS. work, soon to be in press, is as follows:

"LOCAL.—The stamp (adhesive), stamped envelope, wrapper, or card, used by a private individual or corporation to pay or to collect the fee for transmitting a message either by private mail or telegraph on private routes or to government mail."

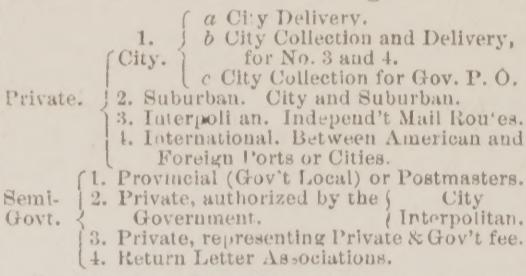
Those who have made the Locals of the world a study, have from the misleading nomenclature now in vogue, seen that there is a great variety of Locals, viz: the Russian Local, the Oriental Local, the Scandinavian Locals, the East India Co., the North Borneo Co., the issues of Steamship Companies, and Postmasters' stamps.

But the study of the methods of using these stamps and the circumstances attending their issue will show that these are not to be classed with true Locals. The Russian District stamps are partly governmental; the Oriental are governmental intended for local mail. The stamps of Shanghai and China, while they are issued by private parties, are still under a contract with, or at least approved by a government that has issued none. The East India and British North Borneo Company not only issued stamps but coined money and governed territory that was afterwards formed into colonies.

But to come to Locals as generally understood, we find that in history The First Post was a Local Post; The First Stamp (adhesive) was a Local Stamp; The First Card was a Local; The First Wrapper was a Local.

But in the United States, private enterprise preceded the government in the development of the country, and the express business of today had its origin in the Local Letter Expresses of the '40's.

Mr. Coster in his "United States Locals and their History," divides Locals into two general classes with a sub-class of each; but this method of classification leaves much to be understood that might not be apparent to the non-philatelist or the anti-local collector; therefore, after much study, I have divided the Locals of the United States private mails into the classes as is shown in the diagram below:



Of the First-Class Locals there are three varieties: (a), those established in towns and cities where there was, at the time, no governmental delivery, or where the system was inadequate for mercantile necessities; (b), also those that, in addition to this, connected with interpolat or international posts and collected and delivered for those posts which, in many instances, turned over their mail to city posts for delivery. The third (c) are posts that collected mail from their own boxes, offices and residences destined for governmental mail.

The Second Class, the Suburban Local, is, in many cases, an interpolat; still it is essential to distinguish such posts as the "Staten Island" from the stamps issued by the independent mails that ran thousands of miles. These stamps were used by posts that did, as their name indicates, a suburban business, and the places that once knew them are now lost in the great cities that have surrounded and absorbed them.

The Interpolat Local is the one that is best known to the mercantile world. This is due to the wonderful success of the well-known express of Wells, Fargo & Co.; but the history of this one post involves the history of hundreds of posts, many of which left no philatelic token and on whose routes Wells, Fargo & Co. are running to-day.

The various independent mail companies not only gave better service than the government, but by a system of connecting expresses carried matter where the government mail did not extend, and they either succumbed to government prosecution, or were absorbed by Wells, Fargo & Co. or the Adams or American Express Co.'s.

It is under this division that I would place the stamp of the telegraph companies, for the telegraph is only a mode of transmission and, I now believe, should be placed with the Locals of this country.

The International Local is the stamp of some express that had one terminus in

the United States or connected with some express that had, and this includes the steamship companies' expresses that ran on steamship companies, or railroads, or river navigation companies between cities in the U. S. and some other point; this includes the Pacific Steam Navigation Co., Wells, Fargo & Co., Freeman & Co., etc.

Of my second general division, that of semi-governmental, there are four classes; the (1), Provincial, called by some, Governmental Locals incorrectly, for the government did not have anything to do with their issue, but they are semi-governmental from the fact that they were used in government mails, and the only writer who has given them a name that is correct, is Mr. Tiffany, who designates them as Postmaster's Stamps. Private Stamps (2) authorized by act of Congress; this may seem peculiar, but such is the history of the Pony Express of Wells, Fargo & Co. and U. S. City Despatch Post.

To quote from an act of Congress approved March 2, 1861, "The Postmaster-General is directed to run a Pony Express from New York to San Francisco, in ten days, for eight months, and twelve days for four months, carrying for the government, free of charge, five pounds of mail matter, with the privilege of issuing postage stamps and charging the public One Dollar per half-ounce letter." Contract to expire July 1, 1864.

As Wells, Fargo & Co., took the contract, it will be seen that the Pony Express stamps in use prior to 1864 were authorized by law, and also the rate fixed by law.

Just here, while on the subject of these stamps, it is pertinent to notice an erroneous statement made by Mr. Wilbur W. Thomas in the April, 1887, number of the Western Philatelist, page 50, in which he says, "These stamps were never used to convey letters across the continent as many suppose." Now I, for one, do not suppose anything about it; I will say on good authority, that the letters of this post left New York via American Express, and that Wells, Fargo & Co.'s Pony Express stamps were used from St. Louis and New York to San Francisco, as well as over lines connecting with them, up to the expiration of the contract.

The stamps of the United States City Despatch Post are under a similar authority, being authorized by the Postmaster-General of the U. S. Here we have a Government Carrier Stamp, that is essentially a City Post, and in reality succeeding the New York City Despatch Post, even to copying the sign of its stamps.

Of the third class (3) of this division we have but one example, and that is in the stamps of the Metropolitan Errand and Carrier Company of New York, for the stamps of the higher values represent the fee for conveying the letter to the U. S. Post-office, also the amount paid the United States Post-office by the M. E. & C. Co. for the United States or foreign postage to any part of the globe.

This latter class (4), I admit here with much reluctance, I do not believe in private dead-letter offices, but if collectors will collect this trash, here is the place where it should be classified. The only examples of this I have noticed is the American Letter Assurance Co., of New York and the National Return Letter Association of Chicago, Ill.

Locals form as valuable a collection as any class of stamps, yet there are many who bar them out of their collections; true, the field is becoming so large that we are compelled to become specialists, but that those who collect the stamps of the United States should pass over these stamps without thought or care, is something that passes my comprehension, and after an experience of ten years in Locals as a specialty, I can only say that it is the indiscriminate counterfeiting of these Locals that has caused the general boycott to be placed upon them, but I am happy to write to-day that those who never collected them before, are awakening to the fact that if they are ever to obtain specimens they must begin now.

During the past year I have had much correspondence with collectors of Locals in different parts of the country, and the only fault that I can find with them is that they are too retiring and we never hear from them in the literature of the day.

This I am pleased to say has been broken down, our Circuit Letters and the like of these after they have completed the circuit are preserving much valuable information.

In conclusion I would say to those that have paid but little attention to private stamps, that there is no series that will pay as well for the time expended. The research of history to ascertain their untold tales is replete with valuable information.

A Local is beyond invention, and it is not so easy to conceive one as many would have you believe. Time has put his cancellation on all and no knowledge can eradicate it, and counterfeits but add

to the value of the original. The Local stamps claim their place among those of the U. S., and no one can omit them without marring the beauty and completeness of their collections. The Local can be protected, and the U. S. Post-office Secret Service will do it for us. We have only to prove that the parties vending Counterfeit Locals are "obtaining money under false pretenses," or that they use "U. S. Mails for fraudulent purposes," and one test case will make them very wary.

The American Philatelic Association should have one more office attached to its Counterfeit Department, and that is a Prosecutor. Other Associations have one and the laws are thus respected. And fear for the Prosecutor of the American Philatelic Association might prevent us from losing much money. I examine hundreds of these stamps sent to me from all parts of this country for inspection, and I esteem it a pleasure to weed out these vile impositions foisted upon an unsuspecting public, and I will do all in my power to damage the trade in this style of wares. On and after the first day of January, 1888, I will punch all counterfeits that shall come into my hands with a large capital C, and will take the responsibility myself. The Private Local Stamp must be protected, and I will do what I can to shield it from its worst enemy.—[The American Philatelist.]

For 2000 mixed United States or foreign stamps, we will send this paper one year,—24 numbers.

Now is the time to subscribe to the WORLD. Only 25 cents—or 500 square cut envelope stamps—pays for this paper until Jan. 1, 1889—22 numbers.

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The agricultural department at Washington has sent out large quantities of the eggs of the silk worm by mail to all parts of the country. It has now been satisfactorily demonstrated that the leaf of the osage orange makes as good silk as that of the mulberry, and that the worms will feed upon it and thrive. The department is in receipt of letters from girls in various parts of the country, saying that they have made from \$20 to \$100 by raising silk in this way.—[Scientific American.]

A member of the London Zoological Society says: "I once had a cat who always sat up to the dinner table with me, and had his napkin around his neck, and his plate and some fish. When he finished his fish, I sometimes gave him a piece of mine. One day, just as the plates were put around for the entree, puss came rushing up stairs and sprang into his chair with two mice in his mouth. Before he could be stopped he dropped a mouse on his own plate and then one on mine. He divided his dinner with me, as I had divided mine with him."—[Household Visitor.]

Mr. J. H. Houston, of Washington, D. C., is trying very hard to convict Mr. C. F. Rothfuchs of that city, of selling counterfeit stamps. We have done considerable business with Mr. Rothfuchs during the last six or eight years, and have always found him to be a perfect gentleman, strictly honest and reliable, and have always found everything we purchased of him precisely as he said it was. Mr. Rothfuchs is a prosperous cigar dealer, on Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, and it would take considerable evidence than the statement of a jealous competitor, to make us believe that he knowingly sold a counterfeit stamp.

King Theebaw's golden chariot of state has been taken to London. It is a clumsy copy of a European model, carved, gilt and relieved with bits of glass set like precious stones. The body of the carriage is carved with an elaborate scroll border, and ornamented with panels, the outlines of which are traced with decorative glass mosaic, while in the centre is the symbolic Burmese peacock. In front stands a pair of birds like peahens, with necks intertwined, which were once surmounted by an umbrella. King Theebaw occupied the seat of this gorgeous sulky alone, with the royal umbrella over his head. There was no coachman, this latest approach to Cinderella's transmogrified pumpkin being drawn by led bullocks.

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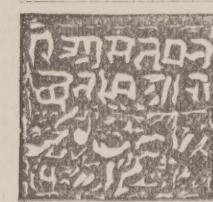
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An Oologist's Vacation.

BY LE GRAND T. MEYER.

(Continued.)

Naturally being early risers we were awoken by the warm rays of the sun entering and lighting the interior of our tent, bringing to life a swarm of flies that had passed the night on the ceiling of the tent.

Remembering our task, we quickly arose, and I soon had the oatmeal cooking and the exhilarating smell of the frying bacon and eggs aroused us to savage-like hunger. As soon as the dishes were washed, we called on a "Yankee" to borrow tools to open the Mound with. With the reputed inquisitiveness of his clan, he annoyed us with numerous questions his excited curiosity would lead him to ask. Finally, not wishing him, for various reasons, to know our honorable mania, we convinced him that we were going to prospect for gold, and I have no doubt that to this day he tells of "Them crazy fools lookin' fer gold."

After securing the tools—a shovel and pickaxe, or rather a grubbing-hoe, we started for the place, distant about two miles. Not sharing my friend's enthusiasm, I naturally would saunter off and explore the trees and bushes lining our way for oological treasures.

"Come along, Norman;" "Hurry up;" "I never saw you so slow before;" were some of Harry's frequent ejaculations. Not heeding these interjections, I continued to search for nests. Seeing a Wild Gooseberry bush, I walked over to it, hoping to be rewarded by finding a Brown Thrasher's or Indigo Bunting's nest. As I neared the place, I saw sitting motionless among the dead leaves, a female Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*).

Whether I or the turkey was the more amazed, I am unable to say, but I was speechless at my great luck, and she, thinking that she would not be detected, never moved a feather while I looked at her. Recovering my speech, however, I shouted "Harry" at the top of my voice. He ran hastily to see what the trouble was, and notwithstanding his indifference, was pleased at the lucky find.

We scared her off and counted the eggs—twelve in all. How we should carry them, was the perplexing question, for the collecting box was far from being adequate. We finally solved the problem by taking a pair of overalls and tying the end of one leg, forming a bag in which the eggs were placed.

"I'll wager almost anything you will not be able to blow them, Norman, for my uncle, an old turkey hunter, says they breed in the latter part of April," said Harry.

"Never mind, I'll blow them, if it takes all day for an egg. Do you know, I can blow an egg even if the embryo can sing," was my optimistic answer.

Not replying to my question, he asked: "Do you see that clump of trees?" pointing to a spot almost eighty rods away. "Well, the Mound is just beyond that."

Being too old a collector to run with such a precious cargo, I did not reach the place until some time after Harry did. He stood with his coat and vest off, ready for the seige. Carefully taking out egg after egg, I put on my overalls, and together we were soon sweating in the trench already started. Before we spoil its shape, I'll give its measurements, taken from Harry's note-book.

"Position of Mound, slightly back from the edge of second growth timber; space for fifteen feet around the Mound, clear, save a few straggling witch hazels. Mound nearly elliptical in shape, extreme length fifteen feet; highest altitude about six feet; width about seven feet. The ground was apparently taken from a neighboring field, as it was different from the surrounding sandy earth." No matter how optimistic a person's views are, on such occasions as these he is inclined to be pessimistic.

"What if we don't succeed, Norman?" said Harry, as we were resting, seated on the freshly turned ground.

"Well, it will be a sarcastic kind of a joke, if we don't."

"Norman, do you remember Shakespeare's epitaph, 'Cursed be he who moves my bones.' I wonder if any of our primitive friends composed their epitaphs. I never dig a grave but what I think of it," said Harry.

"Yes, I remember the quotation, but let's hurry, for we are down but two feet," I replied.

We again went to work with redoubled energy, almost confident of success, for it was plain to be noticed that the Mound was not natural, or of glacial formation, as I at first feared.

"Eureka! What's this?" excitedly asks Harry, holding up for inspection a piece of flint.

"It looks very much like a part of an arrow, doesn't it?" was my reply.

Working with feverish haste, having

caught my friend's enthusiasm, we soon came to the cranium of a human being, apparently about forty years of age, judging from the appearance of his teeth. Harry's excitement was wonderful as we removed bone after bone, implements and broken pieces of pottery, and even my stoical archaeological indifference vanished.

"What are you going to do with these crumpling bones, Harry?"

"Oh, I'll save the best and throw the others into the Mound."

From the Mound, which in Harry's words was the "richest for its size he ever heard of," we got the following articles: Seven large pieces of pottery, one dish or vessel being nearly perfect, and ornamented with geometric circles, seven quartz and flint arrow-heads, and one celt.

Refilling the Mound which we thoroughly dug and redug, we started homeward, after I had safely transferred my Turkey eggs into the overall leg. It being my day to cook, I compromised with Harry, so he received the pleasant (?) task, and I commenced to examine the eggs. The embryo was well developed, so drilling as large a hole as possible, I blew out all the softer material practicable, and filled the interior with water and unslacked lime, to eat, or rather to soften the embryo.

By the next day, the flesh had become so soft that I easily pulled out the pieces with my embryo hook. By the way, if anyone ever had a tired mouth, he can sympathize with me, after using the blowpipe almost constantly for two hours.

At nine o'clock, two happy, tired collectors retired to their straw beds.

(To be Continued.)

What Shall I Study First?

BY W. S. BEEKMAN.

DENSITY and SPECIFIC GRAVITY are terms that are confounded both in our text-books and by teachers. They are referred to in physics as being simply synonymous for the same constant. That they are different you will readily see by carefully considering the following definitions.

DENSITY is the comparative bulk of equal weights.

SPECIFIC GRAVITY is the comparative weight of equal bulks.

The DENSITY of a substance is the amount of matter in a unit volume of the substance.

The SPECIFIC GRAVITY of a substance is the ratio between the weight of the substance in question, and the other substance taken as a standard for comparisons.

While DENSITY is a reality, SPECIFIC GRAVITY is merely a ratio. If this be remembered, the clearer will be the conception of physical examinations of mineral substances. Water is taken as the common standard for the comparison of solids and liquids. The reasons for its being

the most available standard must be obvious to every one. The specific gravity being a ratio, must be found by a simple mathematical problem. The method is to divide the density of the substance by the density of the water. The density of the substance is obtained by some one of the following operations.

Weigh the body in air. Weigh it while immersed in water. Find the difference between these two weights. Divide its original weight, or its weight in the air, by this difference. The answer will be the specific gravity. As before stated the density of a substance is the amount of matter in a unit volume of the substance.

In our English system it is the weight in grains of a cubic inch; in the French system it is the weight in grammes of a cubic centimetre.

Between the grains and inches there is no connection whatever; but, between the grammes and cubic centimetres there is a decided connection, therefore the same number in the French system

will give both the density and the specific gravity.

The density of water is 252.5 grains or 1 gramme. The density of wrought iron is 1966 grains or 7788 grammes. The specific gravity will be the same number in both systems. But the same number in the French system denotes both its intensity and specific gravity, because in that system the cubic centimetre of water is the unit of weight. You must evidently see how easy it is to calculate weight from volume in the French system. Suppose you have a large plate of iron and you are about to sell at so much a pound. The plate is too large to conveniently weigh, or you have not a pair of scales ready, you can easily extricate yourself from the dilemma by the following.

Multiply the width, thickness and length together with the density of the substance, in the metric system, and the answer will be the weight, in grammes of the body. Thus a boiler plate 1-2 centimetres thick, and measuring 120 centimetres long by 75 centimetres wide would weigh

.06x120x75x1.2=34,046 grammes.

Find out for yourself how much a roll of brimstone would weigh, whose density is 2.1 gramme, whose dimensions are 8 centimetres, by 30 centimetres, by 15 centimetres.

In the French system, then, the same number expresses both the specific gravity and also the weight of one cubic centimetre in grammes, and since both 1000 grammes=1 kilogramme, and 1000 cubic centimetres=1 litre, it also expresses the weight of one litre in kilograms. In taking the specific gravity of a substance a certain amount of apparatus is necessary. It may be in any one of the following, or may consist of them all.

Hydrometers, specific gravity balances, densimeters, specific gravity balls, specific gravity bottles, or specific gravity springs.

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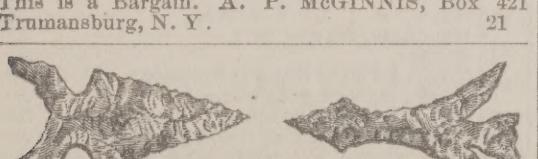
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TEN CENTS.

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3 " U. S. copper cents.
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V nickel without cents.
Nickel of 1883, with shield.

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21



New 8 page Illustrated Catalogue, Minerals, Fossils, Sioux and Apache Buckskin Relics, 3,000 Oregon Arrow Heads. Wholesale and Retail. L. W. STILWELL, Deadwood, D. T.

The Sickly Green Stamp.

NEW YORK, Dec. 28, 1887.

Editor Curiosity World:

Apropos of my "Plea" in your last issue, for "the old two-cent Stamp," I send the following poem which you may publish if you so desire. May its sentiments be re-echoed far over the land; and you may be assured I, for one, will not withhold my pen from pleading, until I have gained my point and we again have the red two-cent to adorn the pages of our albums. Let every collector in the land, who has any degree of taste, and regard for his country, join in the one continuous cry, "Give us back the dull, warm Venetian red!"

Green as the poison ivy leaf,
Perhaps a little duller,
It fills the soul with sickly grief—
The green stamp's ghastly color.

That pale and most obnoxious stamp
With human inwards grapples,
As does the colic or the cramp.
That follows early apples.

In this, it pale and wan disguise,
It must remain a terror,
And force on our protesting eyes
A most egregious error.

Could Washington just take a swear
At Washington thus printed,
The language he would use was ne'er
At Monmouth even hinted.

The green-eyed monster, jealousy,
Might well be so depicted;
But he who made his country free
Should not be thus afflicted.

Bring back the restful red-brown stamp,
And give it to us quickly,
And take away this gauntred scamp,
So pale and sad and sickly.

The reddish hue gave ease to eyes;
It pleased the people vastly;
It was indeed a joy, a prize;
But this pale green is ghastly.

THOMAS COKE WATKINS.

Fishes on Land.

A year or two ago Mr. Grant Allen told the readers of the *Cornhill Magazine* a pretty story of happening upon some migratory fishes, when he was out walking one evening, in a field somewhere in tropical America. The little fellows were "scuttling" before him, and at first, in the half light, he mistook them for certain small lizards which were common in that locality; but a nearer view proved them to be fishes,—all going in one direction, and all in a great hurry. They were really, he asserts, "genuine fish, a couple of inches long, not eel-shaped, or serpentine, in outline, but closely resembling a red mullet in miniature, though much more beautifully and delicately colored, and with fins and tails of the most orthodox spiny and prickly description." To catch them was not a very easy task, as they were active and dexterous, and by no means willing to be captured, but Mr. Allen succeeded; and on close examination, found them to be a sort of cat-fish. He describes them as pretty, well-formed, bright-eyed, and instead of being covered with scales, with bodies "armed all over like the armadillos with a continuous coat of hard and horny mail," formed of a "toughened skin like that of alligators, arranged in two overlapping rows of imbricated shields, exactly like the round tiles so common on the roofs of Italian cottages."

Their gate was ungraceful, which one can readily believe, as a single pair of stiff spines, just behind the head, are their only substitutes for legs, while the body and tail give their aid in the onward motion by a sort of wriggling, worm-like movement. There was a large body of these little creatures, whose scientific name is *Callichthys*. They numbered, perhaps, thousands, and were moving in a very straight line across the country, quite as if they were well accustomed to this overland manner of travelling, and possibly it was not their first experience of it. There are several other kinds of fish, inhabiting ponds in the hot countries of America, which, like the *Callichthys*, journey about the land. They belong to groups which have no connection apart from this peculiar habit; but the necessity of providing a new home, when their old one becomes uninhabitable from long continued drought, has induced a common resort to this almost incredible expedient.

A certain Brazilian fish, a species of *Doras*, makes, I think, the longest journey of any known. These *Doras* will sometimes spend several days and nights in a single flitting, and travel in such numbers that the natives of the country gather them up in baskets, thus providing for their family larders, by taking what seems to be an altogether unfair advantage of the abnormal plight of the poor fish. The *Doras* move by raising themselves slightly upon their bony pectoral fins, while at the same time an elastic motion of the tail pushes them forward, and they manage to get over the ground nearly as fast as a man can walk. The Indians claim that they have in their bodies a reservoir, in which they carry sufficient water to keep the gills in a moist condition during these journeys.

Many kinds of fish build nests in the water for the protection of their eggs, but the *Doras* make theirs upon the beach. This they do at the beginning of the rainy season. The nest is formed very nearly like that of a bird, and is built of dry leaves, which the little creature goes inland to fetch. When it is finished the eggs are deposited within: and these small fish-parents cover up their embryo off-springs most carefully, and watch over them with great solicitude. The common eel is known to have a similar habit of moving about upon the land, and will even live for several days out of water. When an eel is drawn from the water and laid upon the earth, it at once puffs out its cheeks in a very noticeable manner. These cheeks are formed of distensible pouches, or sacs, covering the gills, which the eel fills with water in order that the gill-fibres may be kept moist, by which means he is enabled to remain upon the dry land for a considerable time without coming to serious harm. So when the pond where the eel makes his home begins to get dry, he takes in a good supply of water, and starts off to find another; moving like a snake in an apparently sinuous course, but really in a surprisingly straight line, for the piece of water he wishes to reach, whose direction he seems by some curious instinct to know.

Gold and silver medals have been struck for strangers of rank. England has her coins also circulating there; in fact, in Annam could be gathered a fine collection of coins.

of any fish which voluntarily comes on shore, as he certainly is the most accomplished in terrestrial feats. He is a little fellow, very little like a perch in general form, with large scales, and spiny dorsal fin, and is to be found in rivers and ponds in most parts of the East Indies. When the waters which he inhabits seem in danger of being dried up, he leaves them and travels off in search of others. Though he prefers to make these journeys at night or in the early morning while the dew still lies upon the grass, he often travels by day, and has even been met toiling along a hot, dusty, gravel road under the full glare of an Indian mid-day sun. It is, however, for his climbing powers that this extraordinary fish is famed above all others that frequent the land. By the aid of his spiny gill-covers and tail fin, which he pushes into the crevices in their bark, he manages to climb trees, even tall palm trees. That he does it awkwardly is true, moving somewhat after the manner of a measuring or looping caterpillar; but the fact that he can accomplish it at all is as marvellous, as his object in attempting thefeat is inexplicable. Boatmen upon the Ganges, and other rivers where these climbing perch abound, catch them and put them into earthen pots; keep them alive without any water, often for as many as six days, killing them as they wish to use them; and find them during the whole time as lively as when newly caught.

The common perch of our own waters, while unable to climb trees, or even to walk about the fields, is possessed of great tenacity of life after being taken from the water. When given a blanket of wet moss, it can be carried in apparent comfort for long distances; and in some parts of Europe, the fishermen will offer their perch for sale during the day, and if not successful in disposing of them, will replace them at night in the ponds from which they were taken in the morning, seemingly none the worse for their outing. —[The Swiss Cross.

U. S. Envelopes and High Prices.

In reading this article, signed by Mr. J. J. Casey, in the November number of the *Stamp Collectors' Figaro*, I consider it my duty to make a few explanations to the members of the A. P. A., and to all collectors interested in it. There are very few members yet in the A. P. A., who collect entire envelopes, and those that do not, cannot form an opinion as to the real value and purpose of Mr. Casey's article. Let us look at the facts, Mr. Casey: There are four dealers (I must say respectable men, three out of the four being personally known to me) who formed a pool, ordered envelopes, which were offered by the P. O. department in certain quantities, and therefore were open to all, at least at the time being. Now those dealers agreed on a price, which you and I call exorbitant,—nevertheless I paid the same.

These are the bare facts in the case, but your article tries to represent the matter in a light to suit you, but which does not exist. It is very kind of you to take care of the collectors' interests, but have you not found out yet that collectors of entire envelopes are nearly all men, who are able to look out for themselves, and for their pocket-books? Your own experience, be it in private or in auction sales, must have proven you that, long ago. The second question is: are the A. P. A. members, for whom you show such a marked interest, really bound to buy those envelopes? I think not, more than any other collector.

Now we come to the question: shall these envelopes be collected as authorized issues? Most decidedly so. Not only can they be used for postal purposes, but are not 2 cents Jackson die D, and 3 cent die C, collected, without being special issues, or were not the 2 cent so-called Kellogg die issued on numbers 7 and 8, without ever appearing on the P. O. department's schedule? All these are recognized by advanced collectors, and to them there is no doubt of the collectibility of these high values. The only difference of opinion remains in their value, and this point each collector will settle for himself. All of us know that high prices have been paid for U. S. envelopes, which were never seen otherwise than with "specimen" on, and it will always remain with the collector's own ideas in this matter, and with his pocket-book, what he will accept in his collection, and what not.

Mr. Casey feels confident to be able to get these envelopes at schedule rates, if so, I am willing to subscribe for ten sets, and I hope he will not only be successful, but will also find many more willing to

subscribe. Your article, Mr. Casey, was of course, prompted by some reason or other, but please do not take us collectors to be fools who allow themselves to be robbed, as you term it, in such an easy way.

HENRY CLOTZ.

Aboriginal California Mint.

In the vicinity of Santa Barbara, fifty years ago there existed the original (or aboriginal) Mint of California. The Indians of Tulare county generally visited it once a year, in bands of twenty or thirty, male and female, on foot, armed with bows and arrows. They brought with them panache, or thick sugar, made from what is now called honey-dew, from the sweet Carise cane, put up into small oblong sacks made of grass and swamp flags; also nut pipes, and wild tobacco, pounded and mixed with lime; the preparation of native tobacco was called *pispevat*, and used for chewing. These commodities were exchanged for a species of money from the Indian Mint of the Santa Barbara rancheras, called by them "ponga." This "pong" money consisted of pieces of shell, rounded, with a hole in the middle, made from the hardest part of the small, edible, white muscle of the beaches, which was brought in canoes by the barbarians from the island of Santa Rosario. The worth of a rial was put on a string which passed twice and a half around the hand, from the end of the middle finger to the wrist. Eight of these strings passed for the value of a silver dollar.—[Science Observer.

25 named Minerals, 10c. Eggs at cost. Lists free. A. N. Fuller, Lawrence, Kansas. (21)

A RUBY Magic Lantern with 75 views, \$1.15 C. Everett, 7 Sachem St., Lynn, Mass.

CAPILLA The Great Hair Restorer! By Mail. \$1. Dr. R. Boyle, 1432 N. 2nd St., Philadelphia, Pa. #31

SEND for a FREE sample copy of the Midget, a bright monthly. J. G. Meacham, 745 College Ave., Racine, Wis. 21

FINE Indian Arrow heads at 10 cents each or 3 for 25 cents. C. A. Musselman, 925 N. Broad St., Philadelphia, Pa. 21

A FULL nickelized pair of Eureka Club Skates, size 10 1/2, in A 1 condition, \$1.50 J. W. Halsey, Montclair, N. J. 21

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JOHN M. HUBBARD, PUBLISHER,
LAKE VILLAGE, N. H.

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FEBRUARY 1, 1888.

Some of our contemporaries are agitating the idea of a Stamp Dealers' Protective Association. The following from No. 7, (August and September 1885 issue) of the "Empire State Philatelist" will show it has been tried before:

Editor Empire State Philatelist:
"Would it not be a good idea for the Stamp dealers and publishers of Philatelic Journals to organize and maintain a Philatelic Protective Association? It is a true saying that there are black sheep in every flock and I believe Philately has its full share. If one member got 'stuck' he could immediately notify the other members, thereby saving them from loss."

My idea is this: Have some stamp dealer, or better still, the publisher of some Philatelic journal for general manager—no necessity for President, Secretary or Treasurer, as one man can do better alone. Allow any dealer, publisher or collector, with a good reputation to become a member upon the payment of \$1.00 to the manager, and the agreement to promptly report all bad bills and transactions, giving full particulars, to the general manager. The duties of this manager would be: To write a reported party, enclosing a *fac simile* of the letter received from the complainant, and request an immediate settlement. If successful, he shall return the stamps or cash to their rightful owner, deducting a fair price for his time and expense. If unsuccessful, he shall have slips printed saying "Beware of _____ giving address in full, we have reason to _____ over the signature of the manager, and send each member a copy in an unsealed envelope. He shall also keep a correct record of all association money he receives and pays out, also a roll of the members. When the cash in the hands of the manager dwindles down to \$5.00 he shall assess each member \$1, at the same time sending a statement of the financial affairs of the association. If a member fails to pay his assessment within thirty days of the issue of the same, his name shall be stricken from the roll and he shall be debarred from all benefits until it is paid. At the end of thirty days a printed list of members in good standing shall be sent each member, in an unsealed envelope. The manager shall have no salary other than he shall be allowed to enclose any of his circulars when sending out an official notice, if he desires. The term of office of the General Manager shall be one year. Thirty days before the expiration of his term, he shall notify each member to send his vote for his successor to a dealer or publisher whom he shall select. This person will count the votes, forward them to the manager who will again count them and forward them to his successor, with a statement of the finances and balance of cash in his hands. In case the manager desires to resign before his term expires, his successor shall be elected in the same manner.

I think with a membership of twenty-five, it would not cost over \$1 each, per year, and of course the larger the roll, the better. I, for one, am desirous of seeing the thing tried, and I will gladly pay \$1. or \$5 if need be, for the sake of being posted. If a man saves being stuck only once in a year, it is a good investment. A dealer who sends stamps on approval should require them to be returned within two weeks. If not returned in that time he should write for them, and if not successful he should write again in a week.

If he still receives no reply, write once more, and if in one week this "last" letter receives no reply, write the particulars to the manager, who will look out for the rest of it. I don't want an honest party accused, but I do want every *rascal* known as such. All envelopes containing stamps should have the sender's address plainly printed thereon, and a printed envelope should be enclosed. Then there is no chance for the old excuse, "must have been lost in the mail."

JOHN M. HUBBARD.

A few dealers and publishers responded, and *only* a few. Mr. Meekel evidently expressed the idea of the majority, when he said "It looks very well on paper, but will not work," or words to that effect. The simple reason why it would not work was because the dealers would not take hold of it. A Dealers' Protective Association properly supported and managed would be a great benefit to its members, and we are in for it, every time. Keep agitating the matter, and we may yet have a flourishing Association.

This is one page of the Gem and World Stamp Albums. The Gem holds 600 stamps; price, 11

Baltimore and Ohio Telegraph Stamps, 1886 issue, 4 varieties, complete, 10 cents, post free. Address J. M. Hubbard, Lake Village, N. H.

The "International Philatelic Advertiser" has been changed to magazine form. It is an improvement, according to our way of thinking.

Geo. W. Von Utassy will call his paper the "Philadelphia Philatelist" instead of the "Germantown Philatelist," which he at first intended.

Mr. Anton T. Dworak of Lincoln, Neb., is about to publish the "Collectors' Hand Book." It will contain 50 pages devoted to Philately, Numismatics, etc.

The "Collector's Illustrated Magazine" is the name of a new magazine published by E. M. Haight, Riverside, Cal. No. 1 is well printed, and its contents are excellent.

We have purchased all the remaining copies of the American Philatelic Record, of the publishers. We can furnish No. 1, post free, for 11 cts., and No. 2 for 6 cts, each, post free. J. M. Hubbard, Lake Village, N. H.

Mr. Calvert has at last been heard from. The "Empire State Philatelist" was not dead, but simply enjoying a six month's nap. The paper is now called the "Manhattan Journal," and is to be published every two weeks. The form has been changed to 8 pages, 3 columns to the page.

Philatelic Frauds, 40 pages, (published by Simmons, 1883,) 15 cents; Black List, 12 pages, (published by Hubbard, 1886,) 11 cents; Coffin's Directory of Philatelic Frauds, 1887, 12 pages, 11 cents, or the three books for 25 cents, postpaid. Address, J. M. Hubbard, Lake Village, N. H.

Wilcomb & Co., have just purchased a fine lot of Indian Relics, stuffed birds, eggs, etc., at a price that made us smile when they told us the amount. As this is outside of their regular business, Messrs. Wilcomb & Co. will give collectors a chance to secure some very fine specimens for very little money, and all in search of bargains in this line should read their advertisement on the first page.

Mr. S. B. Bradt, of Chicago, Ill., has favored us with a copy of the "Bluffton Stamp Society: A Story for Young Stamp Collectors," by Philo. It contains 80 pages, well printed and bound in cloth, with gilt side-stamp, and makes a very attractive volume. The story is quite interesting and every stamp collector should obtain a copy. Price, 50 cents. Address S. B. Bradt, Room 52, 225 Dearborn St., Chicago, Ill.

One hundred match, medicine, playing card or any kind of U. S. revenue stamps, pays for this paper one year,—24 numbers.

Anyone in want of a \$1,000 collection of Indian Relics would do well to correspond with Dr. G. L. Mc Kown, Mt. Vernon, Ohio. He has a splendid collection for sale.

For 200 square cut envelope stamps, we will send the CURIOSITY WORLD 3 months, —6 numbers—on a Gem stamp album, containing space for 600 stamps; or, for 400, we will send both.

Now is the time to subscribe to the WORLD. Only 25 cents—or 500 square cut envelope stamps—pays for this paper until Jan. 1, 1889—21 numbers.

W. S. Beekman of West Medford, Mass., sent us a fine specimen of "Moonstone" a few days since. Mr. Beekman has a splendid stock of Minerals, and all in want of anything in his line would do well to obtain his price list.

3 Indian Arrow Heads, (flint,) 1 Arrow Head, (quartz,) 1 War Point, (flint,) 1 Spear Head and one Net Sinker, all in perfect condition and the "Curiosity World," one year, (24 numbers,) all post paid, for only 85 cents. J. M. Hubbard, Lake Village, N. H.

Thomas Coke Watkins of New York City, has in preparation, and will soon publish a collection of Philatelic poems, that have appeared within the past twenty years. It will undoubtedly be first class in every respect, as Mr. Watkins never does anything by halves.

Anyone buying any of the goods offered for sale by J. M. Hubbard, to the value of 50 cents, at one time, and mentioning that he saw this notice, will receive the next twelve numbers of this paper, free! If goods to the value of \$1.00 are bought at one time, the next 24 numbers of the paper will be given.

Mr. Casey's 14th Auction Sale, the Suffolk Collection of Stamps realized \$1,525. The Reay set of "Specimen" envelopes brought \$47.90. Lot 994 Colonial Stamp, \$20.00. Unused set of Executive Department, \$7.50. Spain, 1852, 2r, \$16.00. The prices realized were in some cases above catalogue quotations. Mr. Casey had booked nearly 3,000 bids before the sale.

I have 25,000 old philatelic papers, which have been accumulating for the past ten years. Will sell 50 copies no two alike, for \$1.50, or 100 copies, no two alike for \$3.50, or 150 copies, no two alike, for \$5.50, post free. Autographs, Stamps, Coins, Indian Relics and philatelic publications, bought, sold and exchanged. Address, J. M. Hubbard, Lake Village, N. H.

Pennsylvania has more post offices than any other state in the Union,—871 more than in New York.

For 2000 mixed United States or foreign stamps, we will send this paper one year,—24 numbers.

We will give a new GEM stamp album containing space for 600 stamps, for only 200 square cut envelope stamps. See adv.

We have received No. 1, of the "Semi-Annual Stamp Collector," published by James Walter Jones, of Schenectady, N. Y. It strikes us that 15 cents per copy is a pretty big price for a 1 cent paper.

It is said that fish dealers in China keep their stock swimming in tanks of water. If a customer wants only a part of a fish, it is taken from the tank and enough cut from it to supply his wants, and then the remainder of the live fish is thrown back into the water, there to suffer until it dies.

It the gentleman who sent us \$1.00 in payment for a two inch adv., about Jan. 16th, will send us his address, we will print his advertisement. We should also like to know the street and number of E. P. Lea, Toronto, Canada. We sent him some stamps which he ordered, and the letter, after laying in the Toronto office 30 days, came back to us.

The collection of the Museum of Natural History, in Paris, has been enriched by the addition of a curious lizard, brought from New Holland as a present to M. Conrad Baer. It inhabits trees, and has two air-tight curtains or membranes, one on each side of the neck, which it expands at will, and thus supports itself in its aerial leaps from branch to branch.

We have just issued the Stamp Dealers of the World, containing the address of over 600 stamp dealers in all parts of the world. The list is as complete as is possible to make it and contains 29 pages and cover and is very valuable to both dealer and collector. Price, post free, 11 cents, or three for 27 cents. Address, J. M. Hubbard, Publisher, Lake Village, N. H.

There was a large sale of Jacobite manuscripts at Edinburgh recently. The highest price was £11 12s., which was paid for the original proclamation issued by Prince Charles Edward at Dalkeith in 1715. A proclamation of Oliver Cromwell, "given at Dunbar in 1650," brought £5 10s., and £9 was given for the "Oath of Allegiance" to James VIII, signed in 1715 by Balmerino, Cluny Macpherson and six other chiefs. After the Jacobite papers had been sold, a number of letters written by Sir Walter Scott, to his agent, Mr. Ferrier, were offered, and they realized high prices.

cents; the World holds 2,540 stamps; price 28 cents. Address J. M. Hubbard, Lake Village, N. H.

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100 VARIETIES of foreign stamps, including many South and Central American for every U. S. or Canada 25 cent piece, 150, 50 cents, 200, \$1. Eugene Lebeuf, Jr., Fox River Shops, Panama R. I., Aspinwall. 23

50 VAR. of U. S. stamps including 2 var. of revenue, old issues, Department and envelopes. Guaranteed to be worth 5 times the price. Only 25 cents, post free. 50 var. foreign, (good) only 15¢. S. W. Miller, Jr., Burlington, Coffey Co., Kansas. 23



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Send a stamp and good reference

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Stiff paper bound, 10¢.
Cloth bound, 25¢.

The Quaker City Pub. Co., Ltd., Box 1153, Philadelphia, Pa.

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I WISH TO BUY large or small collections of Stamp Coins, Indian Relics, etc., for spot cash.

JOHN M. HUBBARD, PUBLISHER
LAKE VILLAGE, N. H.

An Oologist's Vacation.

BY LE GRAND T. MEYER.

(Continued.)

Living on the lilled and bulrushes shores of such a remarkable lake, naturally the teachings of the venerable Isaac Walton would arise before our minds.

"Norman, let's get up before sunrise and go fishing for black-bass," said Harry one evening before retiring.

"Well, I am agreeable," I replied.

"What do you think would be the best way to go, you are such a devout angler?" was his complimentary answer.

"Well, I'll tell you my favorite method and if you like it we will try it,—put on an old pair of pants, strap up your shirt with a belt, then, minus shoes, wade through the rushes with a long "cane" pole, having a short line baited with a small sized frog suspended from three hooks. If we take the end of our trolling lines they will answer, and save us the trouble of joining the hooks."

"I believe we had better try your way, but what is the reason you have three hooks, wont one do as well?" was Harry's reply, as he got down his fancy tackle box, kept with old maid-like neatness.

"Why, you see we put only one hook through the frog's head, and when the bass jumps for it, he is much more liable to be struck or caught on three hooks than one," was my rejoinder.

"A capital idea! But doesn't it hurt the frog to be tortured so? I believe I'll kill mine first."

"It doesn't hurt them very much for they have no nervous system. But you don't want to kill your frog, because when dead they invariably turn on their backs when cast, and present a very unnatural appearance to the wary fish; besides more weeds are caught on the hooks, for the frog strives to clear himself of them when alive."

"Well, if you will get the frogs, Norman, I'll get the grub and angle-worms."

"All right." So we separated; Harry going to a neighboring farm house for the bait, and I to the ditches for frogs. Somehow, Harry's willingness in going to the farmhouse caused me to wonder, until I finally found that the reason was that there was a pretty black-eyed lassie there, and if any of our readers think I imposed on Harry by having him obtain supplies from there, they are in error, for the task was self-imposed.

The next morning, an hour before sunrise, we entered the water near the bulrushes, each of us carrying two frogs in a bottle strapped to our waists and a stout line to string our victims with. We waded cautiously along, dropping the frogs wherever we found an opening in the dense rushes. It is truly strange how active a dull imagination becomes when one is wading in water knee deep in such a place. Once he thinks he is perhaps standing on the back of some mammoth "Snapper;" or he feels the cold, slimy body of a snake glide slowly by him; or again he is sure he is standing on a muskrat; but these shocks are nothing to the enticing and fascinating sport one is sure to have under favorable circumstances.

I was rewarded with the first bite, just as I was about to drop the frog near a bunch of lily leaves, when a monster black bass sprang at the frog but missed it. Hastily throwing the frog where the bass disappeared, I was rewarded with a "strike" that would have caused a novice to drop his pole and run.

"Gracious, Norman, what was that?" asked Harry, pulling his revolver.

"It's a bite, and I am only letting him play. Hold the pole for me," was my answer. Hurrying to where the line indicated, I soon had the fish in my hand.

The sport's pleasure in tiring out a fish would never work here, for the fish by twisting the line around a clump of rushes, would, owing to the short line, easily pull the hook from its mouth, on account of the inelasticity of the short cord.

"My! Isn't it a whooper? It will weigh about six pounds, wont it?"

"It will weigh about five pounds," was my answer.

"Did you ever hear the expression 'bit like a bass,' Norman? That was a remarkable illustration of it anyway."

Tying the fish to the string provided, I dropped the fish into the water, and we proceeded onward. We fished until ten o'clock, with good success, Harry having caught three bass and myself two.

"We'll go a little further and then quit, I guess, Harry. It's getting too warm; they don't bite very well toward noon."

Throwing my line near a deserted musk-rat house, hardly expecting a bite, a fish about four feet long sprang for the frog. The bite was so sudden and unexpected that the pole was jerked from my hands. I jumped for it as it glided through the rushes, but as soon as I commenced to pull, the line broke, notwithstanding the fact that Harry fired three

shots at the fish, so we were unable to get it.

"I wish we could have caught that one, Norman, I believe it was as large as all the rest."

"So do I, but there's no use crying over spilt milk. It makes one feel light and airy though to lose his best bites."

Going home, we fried one of the smaller fish for dinner, and then taking our other poles we went "still" fishing, that is, anchored and fished. As the fish were not biting very well, at Harry's suggestion, we drifted, each of us having two lines dangling from the boat. In this manner we caught probably fifty silver bass, by the time we reached the shores of the lake. Rowing back, we tried drifting again, so by the time we got back we had eighty-three fish. Rowing across the lake to the station, we packed seventy-five silver bass and three black bass in ice and sent them to our employer by the evening express, with orders to have them delivered at once.

They were received the same evening, and Mr. Ford flattered us not a little on our successful angling.

(To be Continued.)

What Shall I Study First?

BY W. S. BEEKMAN.

Hydrometers though varying to a great extent in style, depend upon the same principle and give the same conclusions from their use. For liquids a special kind of areometers are in constant use and give their results according to the depth to which they will sink when immersed in the liquids. Many scales have been arbitrarily formed and brought into commercial use, but they are misleading and are to be avoided when possible. Only those hydrometers should be used that indicate the true specific gravity. The one mostly used and almost universally known, is the Baume Hydrometer and scale. The instrument is simply a glass tube loaded at the bottom with mercury or small shot, with a small bulb blown just above the loaded end. It was graduated in the following arbitrary manner, and thus in not being scientific, at the outset much confusion has been established that will be difficult to entirely overcome, as the perfect specific gravity scale gradually takes the place of the long used Baume.

The glass tube was loaded with mercury so that it would very nearly sink to the top of the tube when placed in water, and this point was marked 0. The instrument was then placed in a 15 per cent solution of salt, and the point at which this rested was marked 15. The intervening space was then divided into fifteen equal parts, and the space below was similarly marked off. Each one of these divisions represents a degree. For liquids lighter than water the tube was loaded so that the bulb just sank in a ten per cent solution of salt, and this was marked 0. The hydrometer is then transferred to water and the point at which it floats is marked 10° and the space between equally divided into 10 spaces and also the place above the 10° mark.

Alcoholometers, Saccharometers, etc., are, as their names indicate, used separately for those special substances. Tralles', Carter's, Lussac's, Sikes', Jones', Dica's, Twaddell's, Beck's and Zanetti's hydrometers are all more or less quoted in the different technical works. Twaddell's is perhaps quoted as often as any of them, and its specialty is that its divisions are so regulated that the number multiplied by five added to 1,000 gives the true specific gravity. The above hydrometers are classed together as those in which the weight remains constant but the point of immersion varies.

We now come to those in which the point of immersion is constant but the weight differ. It was first described by Boyle in 1675, but is called the Fahrenheit's Hydrometer, and this hydrometer by one little improvement has given rise to the well known Nicholson's Hydrometer. This hydrometer is perhaps the easiest to obtain and the simplest to manipulate, besides being well adapted to the use of the young mineralogist.

A cylindrical piece of tin is capped at each end by conical points; at one end, which is to be the top, a stout wire with a cap on the end is soldered. To the lower end there are hooked two conical cups, with their apexes so joined together as to resemble an hour glass. This cup is loaded so that the whole tin is immersed in the water. The weight of 1000 grains in the top pan now sinks the instrument up to a mark on the wire stem. To take the gravity of a mineral, a piece weighing about an ounce is placed in empty pan and weights are added until the instrument sinks to the mark to which it sank when the thousand grains were on the pan. We will say you have to add 400 grains, then your mineral must weigh the difference between the 400 grains and the 1000

grains which is necessary to sink the instrument to the mark. The mineral weighs 600 grains. It is now placed in the hour-glass shaped cup at the bottom and immersed with it in the water. Weights are now added to the top pan until the same mark as before is reached. On now counting up the weights, you may now find that the 450 grains was necessary, instead of 400, when the mineral was in the upper pan.

It has lost 50 grains. By dividing what it weighed in the air by what it loses in the water and the answer is the specific gravity. Thus 400 in the air—350 in the water gives a loss of 50 grains in the water—and this 50 in 400=8, which is the specific gravity of the mineral. This operation does not take five minutes and is one that every student should practice on every new specimen, not only on minerals but on coins, butter, wax, lard and many ordinary things.

Sometime ago I had a few of these hydrometers made for a class, and can send one to any who desire, at the cost of making which was 55 cents. But as the student is rarely equipped with a pair of good ballances, the use of a specific gravity bottle is rarely convenient.

The Nicholson Hydrometer will take the gravity of solids higher than water, if the solid is placed in the apex of the lowest cone. This will prevent its rising when immersed in the water. A piece of camphor is a convenient substance to practice for substances lighter than water.

EXCHANGE NOTICES.

The Curiosity World.

VOL. II. NO. 10.

LAKE VILLAGE, N. H., JANUARY 15, 1888.

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FRANKFORD STAMP COMPANY,

Frankford, Phila., Pa.

An Historical Glance at the Postal System of the World.

In attempting to write a history of Philately, it is necessary to look back to a time before stamps or even Post Offices were thought of. We find that in all probability the Persians were the originators of a postal system. We find that Cyrus, the son of Cambyses I, established one hundred and eleven posts from the Aegean Sea to Susa, while on his Scythian expedition, in order that he might keep "posted" on the state of affairs at Susa, his summer residence.

Augustus instituted posts along the great roads of the Roman Empire and sent his messages by mounted couriers, who had relays of horses at certain intervals along the line, similar to the method employed a few years ago in the western part of our own country. In the year 807, A. D., Charlemagne established a public post in each of the countries, Italy, Spain and Germany. In the 12th century, the University of Paris established a body of pedestrian messengers who bore letters from the thousands of students, to the various countries from which they came; and brought to them the money they needed for the prosecution of their studies. As late as the 15th century, butchers or drovers who went about buying cattle, were the principal carriers of private letters. In 1414, Louis XI., of France, instituted posts throughout his kingdom. The earliest post for the accommodation of the general public, was established in 1516, between Brussels and Vienna, by Franz von Thurn and Taxis. The counts of Thurn and Taxis retained this monopoly till the dissolution of the German Empire in 1806.

The first Postmaster General in England, was appointed by Queen Elizabeth in 1581. The Penny Post was established in 1681, by an upholsterer named Murray. This was made a two penny post in 1792. Spain authorized by royal decree, in Dec. 1716, that the secretary of the crown should have the privilege of impressing upon letters to other authorities, the great seal, thus rendering the letters "postpaid" or franked. In 1782, John Palmer suggested to Parliament, a plan by which the mails were to be carried in coaches, under guard. This plan came into use in 1784.

Perhaps the best proof of the growth of the postal system of the United States, can be found by comparing the number of post-offices of the different years. In 1790, there were, in this country, but 75 offices; at present there are FIVE-HUNDRED THOUSAND, and at the present rate of increase there will be in 1890, 60,000 offices. Who can look at the difference of the numbers, and say that our postal system has not been improved? Who can compare our rate of two cents per ounce with the rates of only seventy years ago, when it would have cost two dollars to send a letter of the same weight the distance which we can now send it for two cents; who can compare these, and complain of the cost of our postage? Our system has reached such a degree of perfection, safety and cheapness, that no one can find the least fault with it, and at present, the little rectangular piece of paper, which costs us the sum of two cents, and is attached in a moment to our letter, commends it to the care of a multitude of the faithful servants of Uncle Sam and hastens to their destinations the epistles of people in every grade of society, from the humble servant in the land, to him who has attained the loftiest elevation in the gift of his countrymen."

between us, if we could make that sum out of the office. To do this, a variety of improvements were necessary; some of these were inevitable in the beginning expensive, so that in the first four years, the office became above £1000 in debt to us. But it soon began to repay us, and before I was displaced by a freak of the ministers, we had brought it to yield three times as much clear revenue to the crown, as the post-office of Ireland. Since that impudent transaction, they have received from it—not one farthing.

In 1789, the constitution conferred upon Congress, the control of all mail matters. The rates of postage from the organization of the department till 1816, were as follows:

For a single letter (one sheet of paper) under 40 miles, 8 cts.; under 90 miles, 10 cts.; under 150 miles, 12 1/2 cts.; under 300 miles, 17 cts.; under 500 miles, 20 cts.; over 500 miles, 30 cents.

After the reduction of postage in 1816, it cost one dollar to send a letter of one ounce, more than 400 miles. In 1830, mail was first sent by railroads (England). In May, 1840, the first postage stamps of the world were issued by Great Britain.

From England, the idea soon spread to other countries. Brazil issued stamps in 1843, Switzerland and the United States in 1847. In 1845, the United States postage rates were again changed, being reduced to five cents for one half ounce, under 300 miles. In 1851, an effort was made to raise the rates, but proved unsuccessful; but a law was passed, establishing the following rates: One half ounce in weight, under three thousand miles, if prepaid, three cents, or if not prepaid, five cents. For the same weight, over 3,000 miles, six or twelve cents. To foreign countries, not over 2500 miles, except where other postal arrangements have been made, 10 cents; over 2500, 20 cents.

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G. P. COFFIN.

That Old Stamp.

BY J. WHITMORE HALSEY.

While rummaging about among some old papers in a rusty trunk I fished out from the debris, a queer old letter addressed in a rough, unsteady hand to my father, bearing on the back, so as to serve as a seal, an odd-looking stamp. As I had but a few days before commenced collecting, my interest was at once aroused and I opened the letter to ascertain from whence it came, for I did not know the stamp and the postmark was so blurred that I could not decipher it. I found the letter written by a sea-faring man, to judge from his language, and by the way he wrote, he must have been an old friend of my father's, but to my disgust the letter was neither dated nor headed, so I was as much at loss as to the stamp's identity as before.

If I had been an advanced collector, I could have easily looked it up in a catalogue, but unfortunately I was not, and was very ignorant on such matters, living in a small country place where there was probably no other collector besides myself. I asked father if he could enlighten me. He scratched his head for a while and replied that "Old Captain Ben" must have been knocking about somewhere in the East Indies at that time, but he wasn't sure, for it was a long while ago. I made some vain attempts to decipher the characters on the stamp, but failed, so

I finally put it away in my stamp book and thought little of it. Soon after I gave up collecting altogether.

Time passed rapidly and my father was most unfortunately left idle by the failure of the house in which he was employed. He obtained a situation elsewhere, however, but at a greatly reduced salary. Thus we had to economize in every way, but do our best we soon ran in debt to the amount of one hundred dollars. My father's salary was increased, and we just managed to keep expenses at a standstill, with the exception of the yet unpaid one hundred dollars which we could not seem to lower.

One afternoon, as I was reading a magazine, I noticed the advertisement of a certain firm in the city near by, who wanted to buy rare stamps. I immediately bethought myself of the queer old stamp, and if it was of any value at all how graciously acceptable the equivalent in money would be. So I sat down and wrote them a letter, enclosing the stamp, envelope and all and asked them if it was of any value to them, if they would please reply, stating the amount they would allow for it.

I mailed the letter that night and anxiously awaited the answer. But the answer, like the "six cents that he longed for," never came. I waited and waited, and was about to write the second time, when my father announced that he wanted me to go into the city and transact some business for him. I thought this a rare chance to interview the stamp company about my specimen sent on approval.

Bright and early the next morning I started for the city. I had finished both business and my lunch by two o'clock and proceeded to the address of the Co. Soon I stood in front of the number, a good sized building, and began to look about for the concern. Presently I caught sight of a small glass case displayed outside, on the street, and containing a number of specimens mounted on cardboard. The address "2nd Floor, Room 26" was painted on the case, and as I was about to turn toward the entrance of the block, I caught sight of the old yellow envelope. I started, and in a moment was standing by the case; yes, there it was, mounted on a sort of easel, with my own father's address on the envelope, but what was that beneath in large letters.

"Rare—issue—only—ever in use. Sold to Mr. J. B.—for \$125.00. To be on exhibition this week only."

At first I was unable to comprehend but all at once it flashed across my mind, and burning under the outrage, I rushed into the building. Two flights of stairs somewhat took the breath from me, and I cooled down enough to open the door instead of kicking

THE CURIOSITY WORLD,

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H. J. MIRON, Editor.

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LAKE VILLAGE, N. H.

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FEBRUARY 15, 1888.

As our readers will remember, we made the statement in our issue of Jan. 15, that if the majority of our subscribers wished us to change the WORLD to magazine form we would do so, beginning with Vol. III. The result is a complete surprise, to us, at least. We have had just three requests to continue the paper in its present form, and over four hundred, to change it to magazine form. One of our readers says: "Continue the WORLD in its present form. It is more business like, has a more come to stay sort of a way with it that is pleasant. Articles appear in a better shape, and the whole appearance has a tone above the general run of papers of its class. By all means keep the paper as it is." This is our idea precisely. But it makes no difference what we think, or what anybody else thinks, now. We said if the majority of our readers favored magazine form, we would change. The result is over a hundred to one favor the magazine form and that settles it, right off quick. The WORLD in the future will contain sixteen pages—or more—and cover. The pages will be about seven and one half inches long and two columns to the page. We shall publish it but once a month, however. It will cost us as much money to publish the magazine once a month, as it does twice a month in its present form. We dislike to fall back to monthly issues, much more than we do to change the form. We have the paper now just where it suits us, but we shall endeavor to be suited with the new order of things, and try to make the future issues a little better than the past. The change to monthly will make no difference to either subscribers or advertisers, as they are credited for so many numbers. If they have paid for twenty-four numbers, they will get that number of papers—excuse us, magazines—as there will be no "double numbers" in ours. Vol. II. has been a big financial success over volume I. and if it continues as at present, we will give our readers a magazine that will be "handy for binding" and one which they will want to bind. We wish to thank all who have in any way contributed to our success, whether by articles, subscriptions or advertisements, and pledge them our best efforts to make the CURIOSITY WORLD a magazine of which they will be proud. In the future we shall give the WORLD more personal attention than we have during the last few months, and not leave quite so much to be done by outsiders. Our date of issue will be the 15th of the month. And now, four page, twenty column CURIOSITY WORLD, fare-well, forever. If your successor, the magazine, is as successful in the future, as you have been in the past, we will not complain at the change.

Quite a number of Stamp Collectors, members of the American Philatelic Association, think that dealers should be excluded from offices in the Association. That is a good idea perhaps, but if they are excluded from holding any office, they should also be excluded from membership. There are about seventy-five members of the Association who are dealers. Mr. R. R. Bogert of New York City, Vice-president of the Association, did not run after the office; Mr. S. B. Bradt, of Chicago, Secretary, would not feel very badly if some one else were elected his successor; Mr. Rechert, of Hoboken, N. J., International Secretary, does not make any money out of his office; Mr. E. A. Holton, of Boston, Counterfeit Detector, does considerable work for very little money; Messrs. Sterling, Stone, Mac Calla, and Wetter, Jr., wouldn't feel at all slighted if collectors were elected to fill their positions. Another writer thinks dealers are making lots of money out of the Exchange Department. Perhaps some of them do, but it would be much better for the deal-

ers if there was no Association. The Association is a great benefit to collectors, but takes a great deal of trade from the dealers. Collectors will not buy stamps of dealers, which they can get through the Exchange or Purchasing Departments, and they are not to blame for it, as of course they can get them cheaper; but it makes us tired to hear so much fault found if a dealer puts a few sheets through the Exchange Department.

Collectors or, and dealers in U. S. Entire Stamped envelopes, seem to be greatly exercised over the fact that the four leading dealers have formed a pool, and had stamped envelopes made by the Government to their order, and charge collectors an "exorbitant" price for the same. We do not collect stamped envelopes, or deal in them to any extent. We should just as soon think of collecting bottles of patent medicine, bunches of matches or packs of playing cards with stamps thereon, as collecting entire envelopes; but if anyone does collect envelopes, we fail to see what objection they can have to those made to the order of Messrs. Bogert, Holton & Co., unless it is the price. They were issued by the Government, and can be used through the mails just the same as any envelopes, and if they are not "collectable," what is? In our opinion it is simply a case of "sour grapes" with the most of the kickers. The majority of them would have done the same thing if they could have had the foresight and capital to have done so. There are men in every line of trade who are filled with jealousy and envy at the success of a competitor, and it looks to us as though the growers were either envious dealers, or collectors who want to get them for little or nothing.

Messrs. Bixby, Mitchell and Woodworth have been appointed a committee having charge of the organization of a Dealers' Protective Association. We sincerely hope the wide-awake stamp dealers and publishers will take hold of this and make it a success. It may start hard; we presume it will; but once started and in good working order, the slow-going, old style, conservative dealers will be anxious to join it as they were the American Philatelic Association when they saw its success was assured.

"The publisher of THE CURIOSITY WORLD is contemplating changing it to a 16 page magazine. Don't do it, Bro. Hubbard; it is refreshing to turn from the stack of magazines that pile our table, and pick up a good, live collectors' newspaper like yours."—[Hawkeye State Collector.]

We prefer newspaper form, by long odds, but our readers say "magazine," and magazine it shall be.

The Jock and Wilder, 1c unperforated, is said to be the rarest match stamp.

A correspondence recently reported a 3c 1870, green, with a small square grill in each corner.

For 1000 mixed United States or foreign stamps, we will send this paper one year,—12 numbers.

On the 2c Interior Dept. stamps, the words "of the" are in a slanting position, and on the other values they run straight with the label.

The words "Thirty Cents" on department stamps are printed in the same color as the design, while on the other values the lettering is white.

I recently made a very agreeable discovery in the shape of a block of 4, 3c 1857 unused, unsevered and with the original gum. It is my opinion that it is quite a rarity.

Here is a gem from Bishop's Circular for February, 1884: "Dearest love, I have swallowed the postage stamp which was on your letter because I knew your lips had touched it."

A history of the Philatelic Societies and their doings would be a good work, and ten or twelve years from now would be a rare book, and a practical lesson to the societies of that period.

The Frankford Stamp Co., of Frankford, Philadelphia, Pa., are evidently a wide awake set of fellows. They are now giving away an unused Peru envelope stamp to all their agents. See advertisement.

Philatelic Frauds, 40 pages, (published by Simmons, 1883,) 15 cents; Black List, 12 pages, (published by Hubbard, 1886,) 11 cents; Coffin's Directory of Philatelic Frauds, 1887, 12 pages, 11 cents, or the three books for 25 cents, postpaid. Address, J. M. Hubbard, Lake Village, N. H.

Anyone buying any of the goods offered for sale by J. M. Hubbard, to the value of 50 cents, at one time, and mentioning that he saw this notice, will receive the next twelve numbers of this paper, free! If goods to the value of \$1.00 are bought at one time, the next 24 numbers of the paper will be given.

The Philatelic Journal of America is now owned by a stock company consisting of C. H. Meekel, President, Eugene Dill, Vice President, N. W. Chandler, Secretary-Treasurer, and E. M. Hackett, L. G. Custer, Louis Hauck, M. D., Chas. A. Stegmann, M. D. Batchelder, W. H. LePere, Col. T. B. Rodgers and T. Schmidt. Mr. N. W. Chandler will be business manager, and Mr. Meekel will remain editor.

No. 2 of the "Collectors World" is very little paper, principally cover, or in other words, two pages inside of a four page cover.

Mr. F. R. Gillett (A. P. A. 144) of Freeport, Kansas, is about to publish a book devoted to Philately, entitled "A Power that Moves the World."

No. 1 of the "Philatelic Advertiser and Collectors' Referee" has made its appearance. It is published by S. Heller, London, and is quite interesting.

The firm of W. E. Benjamin & Co., of New York, dealers in Autographs and publishers of the "Collector," has been dissolved. W. E. Benjamin continues.

H. B. Seagrave, of Ionia, Mich., has been elected Treasurer of the American Philatelic Association, and will enter upon the duties of his office immediately.

A wooden case was recently dug up at Pompeii, containing a complete set of surgical instruments, many of which are the same as those in use at the present time.

Fred McC. Smith, of Washington, D. C., has just issued the first number of the "National Philatelist." The name sounds very familiar, but the paper does not look very much like the old "N. P."

Mr. E. B. Sterling, of Trenton N. J., has sold his collection of rare stamps, paper currency, Confederate bonds, battle flags, coins, etc., to Mr. H. E. Deats, of Flemington, N. J. The consideration was \$7,000.

Massamore & Co. will hold their thirty-fifth Auction Sale at Bangs & Co.'s, New York, Feb. 16 and 17. The collection consists of U. S. and Foreign Coins, Medals, Fractional Currency, etc., and was the property of the late Bernhardt Paulding, of Baltimore, Md., and an invoice from the estate of the late Charles Brown, of New York.

Old Stamp, Coin and Curiosity Papers. THE CURIOSITY WORLD.

We have a very few complete files of Vol. I, which we are selling at \$2 each. Also a few copies of each issue except No. 1, at the following prices:

No. 1, sold only with complete volume.	\$.20	No. 7,	\$.10
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3,	.10	9,	.10
4,	.10	10,	.10
5,	.10	11,	.10
6,	.10		

No. 12 \$.20

AMERICAN STAMP MERCURY.

This paper was published by F. Trifet, Boston, 1867-68. We have purchased all the remaining copies and will furnish them at the following prices:

Vol. I, Bound in cloth gilt edges and title, \$1.00

Vol. II, " " " " " .75

Both volumes, post free for \$1.50

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Complete sets of all U. S. Department Stamps. Complete sets of U. S. Periodical Stamps. Large assortment of entire U. S. Envelopes, and more than 5,000 varieties of Foreign Postage Stamps always in stock.

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SMITH & KLOCK, Delta, N. Y.



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A fine .32 calibre Ballard rifle, Oct barrel, set triggers, good as new, cost \$25, will sell for \$12. Also a shot gun, cheap. J. D. Snyder, Box 32, Lowell, Ohio.

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If you want to buy, sell or exchange,

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BURNS & SON.,

744 BROADWAY, NEW YORK CITY.

We have always in stock letters and documents of Colonial Governors, Signers Declaration Independence and Constitution, Generals Revolution, Presidents and Cabinet Officers, Literary (American and Foreign,) Kings and Queens, etc.

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Containing priced list of Autographs for sale. Please mention the CURIOSITY WORLD, when answering this ad.

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Send for Lists.

Advanced Collectors will find it to their interest to correspond with me.

Agents Wanted to sell from my approval sheets at 33 1/3 per cent. discount.

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Always enclose stamp if you desire an answer.

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marked at lowest possible prices and want one agent in every town and village. Commission 30 per cent. Send 2c. stamp and reference, secure the agency and make money. Price Lists free.

To Dealers.

I have an excellent article in Blank Sheets, ruled in two colors to hold 60 stamps, strong, light weight linen paper, printed headings, which I offer at 70c. per 100, 28c. per 50 or 10c. per dozen, postpaid. Sample sheet for 2c. stamp.

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AUTOGRAPHS FOR SALE!

A Desirable lot of Letters of the Presidents of the United States,

Together with a Large Number of Political and Literary Names.

These are duplicates which have accumulated from my own collection and I wish to expend them in adding new material to it. I have some very desirable autographs and shall be pleased to send any on approval to responsible parties. I briefly enumerate some of the more important.

CHARLES THE FIRST, KING OF ENGLAND.

Royal Sign Manual to a document, 1636; with seal; Very fine.

WILLIAM III, KING OF ENGLAND.

Royal sign manual to a document, one page folio, 1693, signed by Godolphin and others.

QUEEN ANNE, QUEEN OF ENGLAND.

Royal sign manual to a document, four pages folio 1704. In splendid condition.

WILLIAM III, KING OF ENGLAND.

Royal sign manual to a document, one page folio, 1693, signed by Godolphin and others.

GEORGE I, KING OF ENGLAND.

Royal sign manual to a document, 1727.

GEORGE IV, KING OF ENGLAND.

Royal sign manual to a commission, 1813.

JAMES MONROE.

Three very neat autograph letters of two, three and two pages quarto, on public affairs and especially interesting.

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS.

Four long, closely written letters, of much interest and in fine condition.

ANDREW JACKSON.

Four documents signed as Major General at New Orleans and four signatures.

JOHN TYLER.

Three autograph letters in very good shape and desirable.

JAMES K. POLK.

Three autograph letters written while President. Very neat specimens.

MILLARD FILLMORE.

Three autograph letters written while President, to Daniel Webster.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

A ship's paper signed by both Lincoln and Seward. The President's name in full.

JAMES BUCHANAN.

Three fine autograph letters and very interesting.

An A. L. 3pp. Martin Van Buren, signatures of Washington, Jefferson, Grant, Johnson and Arthur and a good D. S. of Garfield.

EDWARD GIBBON, THE HISTORIAN.

Document signed, 1 page folio, 1787.

An autograph letter each of Longfellow, Bryant, Fiske, Howells, Sage and Bayard Taylor. Documents of Thornton, Ellery, Sherman, Rutledge, Morton, Clymer, Hopkins, Morris, McKean and Rodman the Signers. A large number of miscellaneous letters and some good signatures. Correspondence dated with collectors. Send for list.

HOWARD K. SANDERSON,

46 Myrtle St., Lynn, Mass.

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SOME INTERESTING AUTOGRAPHS.

BY HOWARD K. SANDERSON.

(Continued.)

Parliament chose as a successor to Queen Anne, George, Elector of Hanover, a great-grandson of James the First, and with him begins the Guelph line of Kings, or the house of Brunswick. England now had the curious experience of a King who only spoke German. He was a man who cared more for his own country than England, and the Tories, who were against him, made much trouble for his highness. A son of James the Second, calling himself James the Third, came forward during his reign and raised a considerable party about him. Louis the Fourteenth of France had promised to help him secure the throne, but he died and James was easily defeated. It is a very good idea to lay in with the rest, just here, the autograph of this James III. who is better known as the Old Pretender. In 1727, King George died, having reigned thirteen years. His autograph is the rarest of all the Georges, and is about on a par in value, with James, William and Anne. He wrote a very good series of pen-scratches, which he called his name, and perhaps set an example to his successors, who all wrote with marked improvement over their predecessors of the previous century. His autograph is worth about five dollars, and it is not impossible to obtain an autograph letter.

George the First was followed by his son, George the Second. He was a small, light haired, fair faced man, in his forty-fifth year, speaking English with difficulty, and caring but little for anything. Four great wars occurred during his reign and the names of Sir Robert Walpole and William Pitt, became prominent. The French and Indian War was the principal event in America, and of its results we all know something. He died in 1760, having held the sceptre and worn the crown thirty-three years. We are now come to a point from which the autographs of royalty are not much more valuable than other people's. George the Second wrote a clear, bold hand, signing his name in large round letters, which leaves no doubt in the mind of the reader as to what it is. A good sign manual should be bought for three or four dollars, and perhaps less.

In 1760, his son succeeded him, as George the Third, and with him began a reign of the greatest importance to our own country. Now, by his obstinate patriotism the American colonies revolted under the unjust pressure of the Stamp Act, and how the Continental Army in homespun and buckskin, put to flight the gay red and buff of the royal soldiery, we all know. How the Americans twisted the lion's tail so badly that he was willing to make any terms with them, has been told so many times, we have no need to dwell upon it. In 1810 the King's mind gave way and he became insane, the Prince Regent assuming his duties, although the King lived until 1820. His death closed a career of sixty years as sovereign and one of the longest reigns in English history. His autograph which is particularly neat and tasty, is by far the easiest to obtain of all the crowned heads of Great Britain. He must have signed innumerable documents and papers during his long reign, and as if in proof of it, they turn up in great numbers even at the present day. A very fine document signed is worth but a dollar or two, and an autograph letter is to be had for a fair price.

He was succeeded by his son, George the Fourth, who had been nominally King for ten years. His reign was full of incident, he being at war nearly all of the time. The Battle of Waterloo was fought during his regency and Napoleon's star went down. He ruled until 1830, when William the Fourth, his brother, took his place. The autograph of King George the Fourth is almost to be had for the asking. It is not at all rare and for a small sum a good specimen can be obtained. His handwriting was not particularly good, for he used too much ink and evidently did not take much pains with his work.

William the Fourth reigned but seven years, or until 1837, when he died. His autograph is not as often met with as the four Georges, but it is not rare. He wrote a very rapid hand and altogether quite good for a King. The only autograph letter in the series, in our collection, is one of William, and is valued at six dollars. A sign manual can be bought for less.

In 1837, Alexandrina Victoria, a niece of William the Fourth, ascended the throne and still reigns, having been queen for fifty years. How well she has governed and what events have taken place during her administration we have no need to allude to. Her autograph is a very clear, sharp signature, rather masculine in its size, but neat and plain. The price is higher just at present, than perhaps its real value. A good document signed is worth five dollars, but is not very easy to obtain.

With this we will let our little history come to an end, hoping that it may have proved of some interest to those who have read it. In conclusion it may be of interest to know that Westminster Abbey is the burial place of twenty-seven kings and queens of England, including Henry VII., James I., Edward VI., Charles II., William III., George II., Elizabeth, Bloody Mary, Mary Queen of Scots, and Anne.

We also add that should the reader ever be in London, he will find the finest collection of autographs of the Kings and Queens in the world, at the British Museum. We briefly mention the more prominent, giving an idea of the vastness of the exhibit.

A letter of Edward IV., signed in 1471; a warrant signed by Edward V., in 1483; a petition signed by Richard III., in 1485; an autograph letter of Henry VII., 1502; an autograph letter of Cardinal Wolsey, from Katherine of Aragon, signed as queen; a letter of Anne Boleyn, signed as queen; an autograph letter of Edward VI., to the Duke of Somerset, 1547; a letter of Lady Jane Grey, dated from the Tower, 1558, and signed as queen; a letter signed by Mary, Queen of Scots, 1565, also a second letter, dated 1579; an order from James I., 1604; an autograph letter of Charles I., 1642; an autograph letter of Cromwell, 1647, and one of Charles II., 1665, together with one each of every king and queen who followed them. Then there are the following grants and charters to be seen. A grant of Hordredus, 692; a grant of King Edgar in 961; a grant of King Canute in 1031; a grant of Edward the Confessor in 1045; a charter of Henry I.; a grant of Henry II.; a grant of Richard I., 1189; a grant of Henry III., 1255; a letter of Edward I., 1292; a letter of Queen Eleanor, 1262; grant of William II.; a charter of Henry I., and many others. But we get envious in thinking of them. So we will say with the crier,

"God Save the King."

Of By-Gone Days.

[Adrian, (Mich.) Daily Times.]

Early in 1848, Mr. C. B. Stebbins, then editor of THE EXPOSITOR, but now a resident of Lansing, casting about for a candidate for the whig party for president, settled upon Millard Fillmore, then an honored citizen of Buffalo, and duly nominated him for that high office, in the columns of the paper. Of course, the Buffalo gentleman was advised of the honor conferred upon him by the Adrian editor, and in acknowledgement thereof he wrote the following letter, which Mr. Stebbins has carefully preserved, and which his nephew, Mr. Fred B. Stebbins, of this city, has had photographed for the Agassiz society:

ALBANY, March 2d, 1848.

Dear Sir:—Permit me to express my grateful acknowledgements for the high and unmerited compliment which you have paid me by placing my name at the head of your paper for the first office in the gift of the nation.

I cannot for a moment suppose that I can stand any chance for a nomination, when so many brilliant names that the people delight to honor are struggling for the dazzling prize. But I feel no less sensibly the kind partiality that has induced a generous friend to pay me this flattering compliment.

Who will be nominated it is now difficult to say, but of one thing I am confident, and that is that the whig convention to assemble in June will select such candidates for president and vice-president as will command the confidence of the whig party and insure its success.

I am truly yours,

MILLARD FILLMORE.

C. B. Stebbins, Esq.

Nesting of the Chestnut-Sided Warbler.

BY C. P. COLLINS.

While out collecting one day in the latter part of June, 1886, I came to the banks of a small stream fringed on both sides with quite a growth of hazel and alder bushes. Strolling along, looking carefully through the bushes in every direction, I suddenly spied a pair of pretty little birds hopping about in a clump of hazel bushes. Although this pair was the first of the species I had ever seen, I instantly recognized them from descriptions and mounted specimens which I had seen, as the Chestnut-Sided Warbler. Upon my nearer approach, the birds exhibited considerable uneasiness, flitting about from bush to bush and keeping up a constant chipping. Thinking that they had a nest near, I wandered carefully through the bushes for some distance round the spot, on both banks of the stream; but after a half hour of fruitless search, I gave it up and went home, thoroughly disgusted.

A few days after, happening near the same place, I saw the same pair of birds. This time being sure that they must have a nest near, I commenced another search, and soon found the nest, where I am certain that it was not when I was there before. So I think the birds had simply selected the locality for a nest, which was the reason they were disturbed by my approach. The nest was situated in the fork of a yellow birch sapling about eight feet from the ground, and was not yet completed.

After this I visited the nest nearly every day for a week, during which time the nest was completed and three eggs laid. After waiting two or three days, no more eggs being laid, I took the set. The eggs measured .66x.49, .67x.50, .68x.51 and were of a uniform cream color, spotted and blotched over the larger end with different shades of brown, umber and lilac.

The nest was a very pretty structure composed of grass fibres, birch bark, etc. firmly woven together and lined with hair. The nest measured inside, about two inches in diameter, by one and one half inches in depth.

Confederate Money.

Since the downfall of the Southern Confederacy Confederate money has been growing more valuable each year, and any one desiring a few specimens should procure them at once. We have a small stock of Confederate bills, which we are selling at 10 cents each, or three varieties for 25 cents. Address, John M. Hubbard, Lake Village, N. H.

The Stamp Dealers of the World.

We have just issued the Stamp Dealers of the World, containing the address of over 600 stamp dealers in all parts of the world. The list is as complete as possible to make it and contains 29 pages and cover and is very valuable to both dealer and collector. Price, post free, 11 cents, or three for 27 cents. Address, J. M. Hubbard, Publisher, Lake Village, N. H.

MOONSTONES!

These beautiful gems are all the rage. They set beautifully for rings, scarf pins and lace pins.

They make fine things to have in the Cabinet with the feldspars, to show the beautiful lustre and clearness. Fine presents to give to ladies.

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W. S. BEEKMAN,

West Medford, - Mass.

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LESS THAN COST.

Read the following carefully;	
CUT and polished.	
CAT'S EYE, India,	\$.75
MOONSTONE, Ceylon, \$1.50 green & pink.	
Cut TOURMALINE, Brazil,	\$2.00
Small cut CARNEALIANS'	.12
OPAL, Mex.	1.00
Engraved Tiger-Eye, CROCOPOLITE, Africa,	.50
A few small *Moonstones, *Opals, *Emerald, 25 cents. Green OURAROVITE, garnet, cut, \$8.00 Red GARNET, \$1.00	
*White TOPAZ, 40 cents. Blue SAPPHIRE, \$4.00 Cut and faceted RUTILE in QUARTZ, No. Carolina, \$3.00	
RARE! CHOICE!! FINE!!!	

A vast assortment of minerals in SINGLE SPECIMENS or by the QUANTITY. AT SAME REDUCTION IN PRICES.

*THE GEM CABINET of four drawers filled with 100 specimens, \$8.00 Cabinet alone, 80 cents. NOTE: All the above not starred can be had at a discount of 30 per cent.

W. S. BEEKMAN,
West Medford, Mass.

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An Oologist's Vacation.

BY LE GRAND T. MEYER.

(Continued.)

Up to this time we were favored with excellent weather, but the storm that had hung suspended, as it were, like the fabled sword by a hair, at length broke upon us. Like most spring storms it commenced at night, but the first thing I knew of it was Harry's exclamation, "Norman, I am wet through; how are you?"

"I am getting wet too; where does the water come from?"

"I guess it is running down the hill."

Upon rising we could plainly see that such was the case, and that our inexperience had caused us to neglect digging a trench around the tent; so upon the breaking of day we borrowed a spade, and were not troubled in that quarter any more. It rained incessantly that day, and while Harry would peruse his archaeological papers and books with evident pleasure, I was obliged to sample my eggs and to fill out my note-book. Meanwhile you may rest assured that we fared well. But one of the most remarkable things was Harry's tenacity in going for the milk and cream. Little did it matter how heavy the storm, punctual at the accustomed time, he would start with his pails for the farm-house. At a subsequent trip I saw the lady in question, a blushing damsel of sixteen, and did not so much wonder at my friend's infatuation.

During a lull in the storm the second day, we went fishing for sun-fish. Going

where the water was about three and a half feet deep, we threw our corked lines baited with angle-worms, among the rushes. It being spawning time I soon had a nibble, and hauled up a gamy fish called by the natives "Pumpkin seeds."

Why so called I am unable to say, for one

could not imagine anything farther from

being a pumpkin seed, for it was the

typical sunfish of the most beautiful coloration; indeed all the primary colors were represented.

Harry soon had three struggling captives in the boat, in the form of Breams.

These two species are without doubt the gamiest flat fish, but unlike their near relative, the black bass, easily tire out. They

bait rapidly for we struck a large school,

and we had fourteen before they ceased

biting, or rather when an unsuspecting

looking cloud broke upon us; so by the

time we reached our landing among the willows we were thoroughly drenched.

Harry, in coming in with supplies, had

found a bird's nest, and not being a climber

did not scale the tree, but upon his

arrival said he had found a Redbird's

nest. Unmindful of the drizzling rain I

ascended the tree, hardly expecting to

find more than one or two of her eggs;

imagine my pleasure when I found four

of her eggs and one Cowbird's.

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The fourth day the storm continued unabated, and to use Harry's Californian expression "we are going to have the wet season." About two hours before sunset the beautifully colored sky announced the coming of a fairer day. About this time Harry and I took a ramble to the east about a half mile from camp. Espying a crumbling log-nut—those disappearing emblems of pioneer days—partly from curiosity and partly for adventure we clambered into it.

"Look at that axe." "See that swift's nest," were our simultaneous exclamations. Harry's quick eye had discovered a grooved Indian axe lying on the partly boarded floor where some tenant, not thinking it worth moving, had left it to finally gladden a collector's heart. The swift's nest was located or glued to a hewn log about six feet from the floor, and six inches from the ceiling. There were five eggs in the basket-like structure. Although not a rare bird, original sets are hard to obtain, because, building as they do in chimneys and other inaccessible places, a number of eggs are nearly always broken in obtaining them. This complete clutch went into my collection.

Mr. Wissler was born in Strasburg in 1803. He was educated in Paris, and spoke five languages with more than an average fluency. Just before the breaking out of the war, he was engaged by a New York firm of lithographers who at once despatched him to Richmond, telling him he would there be instructed as to his work. Within a few days after his arrival, Fort Sumter was fired on, and he found himself in the whirlpool of the great civil conflict.

He was one of the most skillful lithographers in this country. Besides his skill in that profession he was an artist of no mean ability, and his portrait work in crayon and oil was in much demand almost up to his death.

Mr. Wissler was informed that he was

assigned to the work of creating the pa-

per money and bonds of the new Confed-

eracy, and although his sympathies were

with the North, he found himself virtual-

ly a prisoner at the Rebel capital. He

made the best of the situation, went

faithfully to work, and sent for his wife

and family. They were outspoken in

their loyalty to the Union cause, but on

account of the husband's position, were

not disturbed during the four years of

bloody strife.

(To be Continued.)

A Tramp After Indian Relics.

The bank of the Ohio river above and below the Newport Watermarks on the Kentucky side, was at one time an Indian burying ground, judging from the number of graves opened by a couple of my friends at different times. One of the graves contained the skeleton of a warrior in a good state of preservation, lying on its back stretched out at full length.

The skull was in perfect condition, and this they wished to preserve, but unfortunately, in digging it out they undermined a large rock lying above the grave, which rolled down upon the skull completely crushing it. This grave contained, beside the skeleton mentioned, sixteen arrow heads, none of which, with one exception, were in good condition; that one was a small, black flint, having the shape of an awl: also two pipes, one in good condition, the other broken; two whole tomahawks, and about a quart of pieces of flint.

Every grave they opened had one or more large rocks lying above it, having been put there probably for the purpose of preventing wolves and other wild animals from digging up and devouring the remains.

One day I set out with my friend E. J. W.

Every grave they opened had one or more large rocks lying above it, having been put there probably for the purpose of preventing wolves and other wild animals from digging up and devouring the remains.

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The Curiosity World.

VOL. II. NO. 11.

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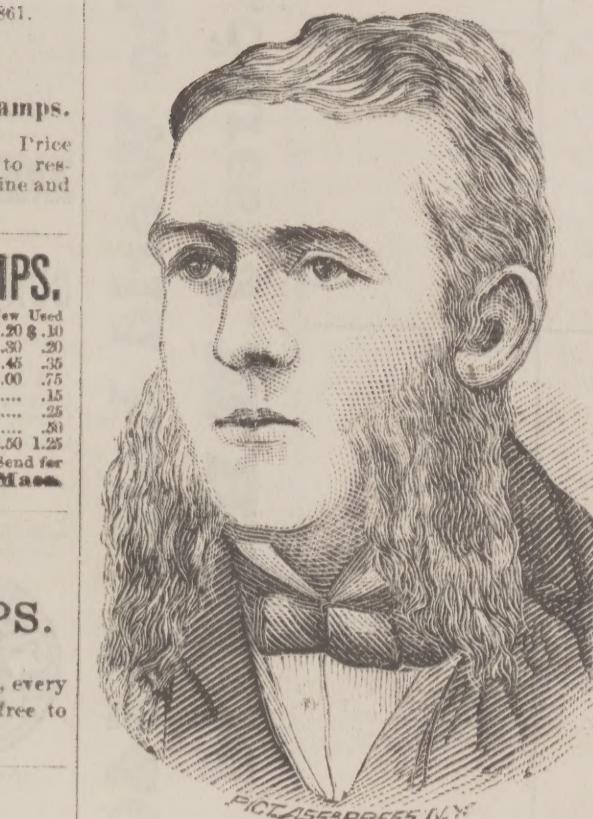
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POSTMASTER-GENERAL.

DON M. DICKINSON,

Of Michigan.

Don M. Dickinson is in his forty-first year and comes of American stock on both sides, through generations running back to the seventeenth century. On his father's side he is descended from the Massachusetts Dickinsons and on his mother's from the Holmeses, who were with Roger Williams at the Providence plantations. His father was a man of rare intellect and high cultivation. Circumstances made it necessary for young Dickinson to earn his own way to education, and he accomplished it at school and college with his own means, gained at first by manual labor and later by an exceptional capacity and judgement for all business, and a remarkable faculty for turning off work, and for taking responsibility. Admitted to the bar when barely twenty-one he rose rapidly in his profession, and from the age of twenty-five he has been a leading lawyer in his State, and from the age of thirty, one of the first counsel in the Northwest. His name has been associated as counsel in nearly every famous litigation in Michigan, and in the Supreme Court of the United States his record of successes has been brilliant. Mr. Dickinson's contest in behalf of the State courts against the alleged invasion of their jurisdiction by the Federal judiciary under the Bankruptcy Law was quasi-political in its character, and in the Supreme Court of the United States, in the LeRoux case, after seven years of defeat in the lower courts, his position was sustained. His latest widely known appearance in that court was in the great telephone contest where he made the leading argument for Drawbaugh against Bell, and was associated with Senator Edmunds and Lysander Hill. His professional income runs from thirty to fifty thousand dollars per annum. In politics Mr. Dickinson is a Jeffersonian Democrat, believing in domestic self-government, a strict construction of the Constitution, and opposing class legislation, in which he embraces all protective laws. But he advises care and caution in dealing with protection as it exists. He has been a recognized leader of his party since he attained his majority. Mr. Dickinson's first vote was cast for Horatio Seymour. He was Secretary of the State Central Committee at twenty-four, and chairman in the Tilden campaign of 1876, when twenty-eight, conducting one of the most vigorous campaigns Michigan has known, and doing a great part in reducing the sixty thousand Republican majority to twenty thousand plurality. He was close in Governor Tilden's counsels both in 1876 and 1880, and was on terms of friendship with that distinguished man. Mr. Dickinson was Delegate-at-Large to the convention of 1880, and chairman of the Michigan delegation. Since 1884 he has represented Michigan on the National Committee. Mr. Dickinson has constantly refused the use of his name as a candidate for Congress or any other office. The only public position he ever held was that of visitor to the United States Naval Academy, the expenses and emoluments of which he devoted to the use of that institution. Mr. Dickinson is a man calculated to make an eminently efficient Cabinet officer.

Evolution.

Evolution means the derivation of the higher forms of life from the lower. There are two principal theories as to how this takes place, and it is merely the position of these two which I wish to define in this brief article.

The first school teaches that the lower forms of creation contain the higher, and that proper care, or environment, is all that is required to produce the latter, there being no limit as to time. In other words, every germ of life contains the possibility of a higher existence, and if such is not produced from it, the environment has not been exactly what was needed. By environment is meant the pressure of outer circumstances and conditions.

It is much easier to say why certain motions should take place, than that there should be any motion at all; we know that most motion is in the line of the least resistance. Hence the theory of the survival of the fittest. There is a constant battle for subsistence inside each species and between different species, and out of this struggle emerge the strong forms, which are to develop. All forms do not ascend or else we would have man alone, the highest. For if evolution pressed equally in all directions, man would be compelled to become a cannibal, so that such system would in time destroy itself. Some of the lower forms become extinct, but the bulk of them remain, and are necessary. They do not ascend into higher forms, simply because they have gotten outside of the influence of the proper environment. The process is still going on; there is no wide gap between the past and the present; as in the past, so in the present; new specimens will appear, and possibly a higher form than man.

The second school teaches that the lower form of creation does not contain the higher. But the production of the higher form is involved in some controlling and directing intelligence. This is what is termed a mediate creation in contradistinction to the former, or immediate. The creation of man was mediate; in fact the whole bible, and particularly the book of Genesis, teaches the theory of mediate creation. It certainly has its place, but it is only one of many elements, and would not be sufficient in itself.

There are many facts which tend to strengthen the theory of superintending intelligence. There is no limit of development, from lower to higher, in chemical elements. The question is open as to what constitutes the difference in the inorganic field. It is impossible to account for the development of the organic from the inorganic. Some have explained it by the theory of spontaneous generation, but this cannot be true, since it does not take place to-day; for as we have previously seen, as in the past, so in the present.

Herbert Spencer says this development took place when the planet was in a heated condition; if this were true why could not the same be carried on to-day, since that condition might be readily reproduced. Prof. Tyndall denies spontaneous generation. The germ theory also repudiates it. Take the simplest of living things, the lichen, and see if its structure admits of such a theory. Prof. Rothrock says this plant in reality consists of two, both of which are necessary for the existence of the lichen, and neither of which could live if separated. One part assimilates, while the other reproduces. We thus find that the simplest of organisms is so complete as not to admit of the theory of spontaneous generation. The metaphysician Hegel grants that there is no evidence of this theory, but he holds to it for the reason that there is no other alternative than to fall back on Theology.

When we come to trace the difference between animal and vegetable organisms, we find their relations so closely connected that it is impossible to draw accurately the line of division. We see carnivorous and sensitive plants on the one hand, and what might be termed rooted animals on the other.

In tracing the difference between man and animals we find that materially there is little or none. The chief dissimilarity is a spiritual one, and lies in the moral nature which man possesses. And even the animal is endowed with something which in a measure approaches this. It is said that conscience means a fear of consequences, and that as a dog has this fear, so he in a measure possesses a conscience. But this is not strictly the case, as the dog will stand a beating so long as the pain does not surpass the consequences of his turning upon you; at the moment it does, he springs at your throat. But, however, the conscience does not consist in the fear of consequences, but in a sense of repentance. Then too, there is a higher attribute of the moral nature which is not even approached in animals, it is the demand for right-

eousness.

But there are difficulties as to this theory. Astronomy teaches us that the earth's motion is slower, by some hours, every year, so that if this loss of motion is calculated for millions of years, we should find the planet revolving so rapidly that nothing could remain on its surface. We must, therefore, infer that the process of evolution took place in a comparatively short time.

The theory of the survival of the fittest is ambiguous and does not account for evolution. The first difficulty presents itself when we ask, which is the fittest? It has been said that the highest is; but this cannot be true since there must have been some starting point at which all were on equal footing. Mere conflict might account for some survivals, but not for upward movement, or development. Environment does not account for evolution, but for what might be termed metamorphosis. GEO. HENDERSON.

Collectors and Collecting.

Collecting has made immense strides in the past twenty years. From being the pastime of a few individuals with hardly half a dozen dealers in the country, and scarcely as many publications, it has become not only a source of interest and study to thousands, but a regular department of business. In response to the demand for knowledge on the subject, and a want for convenient mediums of exchange, numberless publications have sprung into existence, with a mushroom rapidity, equalled only by some of the mining towns of the west. Some, too, are even more evanescent. Within the past six months more than a dozen different papers devoted to collecting, most of them in their 1st volume, many their 1st number, have been sent me, varying in size, from those as large as a letter sheet, to a respectable looking journal of eight pages.

Philately, coins and curios each have their representatives. Collecting ranges from the trashy accumulation of tags, buttons, postmarks and such valueless stuff, to the more pretentious and really valuable gathering of stamps, coins, minerals, Indian relics, curios and kindred articles, whose historic or scientific value and associations entitle them to a high consideration, and afford ample field for research and study.

Collectors may properly be divided into the following classes; those who collect for show, because it is fashionable, or for a transient curiosity or caprice and whose accumulations eventually gather dust, the owner showing a lamentable lack of information concerning his curios; those who collect for profit, making it a business, and those who collect for a genuine love of it and whose investigations make them familiar with whatever department their collections may lie in. When you visit a collector and find a mass of curiosities indiscriminately arranged, coins all in a box, silver copper and all nationalities together; eggs huddled together on cotton, and minerals and relics without label or name, and lastly the owner unable to give an intelligent history or description of his curiosities, it is truly a bad presentation of the term collector. The true collector makes a study of each object he gets. He has a genuine love for the history and science that are wrapped up in his collections ready for him to unravel. He can tell the value and intrinsic merit of his coins and which are the most rare. He can locate the class and family of his birds' eggs, and tell you where all his woods come from. His reliefs and curios are neatly labelled, even if not arranged in a cabinet, and bear unmistakable evidence that you are in the presence of one worthy the name of collector, and who will win respect and admiration for a truly valuable vocation or recreation.

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Chas. W. Crittenton, 1 cent blue, .03

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96 " " 1.25

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25 cent, purple, .20 | \$1 vermillion, .85

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VOL. II. NO. 12.

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THE BLUEBIRD.

The Bluebird.

Sialia sialis (Linn.)

There is not a song of an American bird which so strongly accents the return of spring as does the subdued melody of the bluebird.

To the naturalist or to the lover of rural walks, the song of this bird is suggestive of spring even in dreary December. His fearless confidence in man, his pleasing manners and sociable disposition win our regard at once, and one having no suspicion of his presence is often surprised in the midst of woods, when watching some other species, to see a bluebird quietly perched upon some naked bough inquisitively scanning his proceedings.

The bluebird is cherished in the hearts of all true Americans, and is hailed by the young and the old as he comes to us on the first sunny day of the new year with his plaintive, lisping notes which foretell of the spring with its verdant fields and balmy air.

This is only a single instance of one species of our native birds maintaining its rights by physical force; the intruders being the well known European House sparrows, commonly called "the rats of the air." They are gradually driving the native birds from our cities, especially our favorite bluebird and purple martin whose nesting habits are identical with those of the sparrows. Instances like the one already cited, frequently occur where the sparrows are not numerous, when our birds can easily cope with them successfully, but it is by their overwhelming force of numbers that they become a most aggressive foe. Their future increase should be, in some manner, restricted or ultimately our gardens and our parks will be as silent as a grave-yard on a winter's day, save the monotonous and unmusical chatter of the sparrows.

Some one has aptly said that the bluebird always bears the National colors, red, white and blue, and that it is one of the most strikingly peculiar of American singing birds, and in its habits a model of civilized bird life. Its natural nesting places are in the deserted excavations of woodpeckers, hollows of trees, and even in the crevices of rocky cliffs. With the progress of civilization and the characteristics of a true American, the bluebird has taken advantage of modern surroundings, adopting the boxes that are put up for its use, nesting also in every conceivable nook and corner in houses and barns. Very frequently letter boxes upon fences are taken possession of; these are often filled to their utmost with building material, rendering them totally useless for the purpose they were intended. Sometimes queer places are chosen for nesting sites. I found a bluebird's nest in the interior of a wheel of a railroad car during the strike a few years since, and on another occasion, in Morrow County, Ohio, I discovered a brood of young bluebirds in a Cliff Swallow's nest under the eaves of an old barn.

The normal color of the eggs of the bluebird is uniform pale blue, unspotted. They are four, five and sometimes six in number, and their average size is .81 long by .62 broad. It is not uncommon sometimes sit for hours and warble his soft, agreeable song, with open, quivering wings. Here too, proudly stationed,

he surveys the surrounding territory and awaits any intruder that may approach, whose presence he resents and whom he assails with astonishing vigor. A pair of English Sparrows had taken possession of a box in my neighborhood during the winter months, in the absence of a pair of bluebirds who had occupied it the previous summer. In March the sparrows began constructing a nest, and by the time the bluebirds arrived, eggs were deposited.

One bright, sunny April morning, the bluebirds came to inspect their residence and found it occupied by the sparrows. No sooner was the situation discovered than the bluebirds began pulling out sticks, straws, grass, string, bits of paper and other rubbish, and along with it the eggs, down to the whole to the ground. During these proceedings, however, many a vigorous and spirited contest took place between the sparrows and the bluebirds, but the latter came off victorious.

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tions on the bluebird, I shall close by quoting one from the pen of Thomas M. Earl, and I trust no apology is needed for giving it here entire.

Ere winter's drear shadows
Are gone from the meadows,
Ere the wind of the north hush ceases to blow,
On some frosty March morning
All wintry ills seemning
The clear loving notes of the bluebird we know.
Oh, we will remember
'Twas in dreary November
He left us to wing to a summer clime,
And faded from view.
In heaven's own blue
Like a hope that is lost on the bosom of time.
Sweet is the story
The bird in his glory,
Sweet is the story the bluebird doth tell;
Now coming to cheer us
When springtime is near us,
Singing the songs that we love so well.
To the ice-covered fountains
To the woods and the mountains
The tidings are sounded "Spring cometh again;"
To the musical river
Flowing onward and ever
By upland and glade he repeats the refrain.

It is heard by the lilles,
And the proud daffodils,
And echoed when the slumbering violets grow;
The crocus first peering
Half wondering, fearing,
Reassured stretches up thro' her mantle of snow.
His bosom discloses
The red of the roses,
The assure of heaven reflects on his wing;
'Tis the guise of a fairy
Who with song light and airy
Comes to us on his mission to herald the spring.

OLIVER DAVIE.

Dark Days.

Certain days recorded in history on account of unusual obscurations of the sun are called "Dark Days." An extraordinary occultation was, in the middle ages, at once attributed to supernatural causes, just as a fall of rain laden with the pollen of the birch or pine was thought to be a shower of brimstone.

In the times of Humboldt and Franklin, during the latter part of the last and beginning of the present century, the bold pioneers of modern science carefully studied the unusual occultations of the sun which could not be accounted for by ordinary meteorological causes, and made it the subject of extensive speculations. These phenomena were then ascribed to the grandest, though not incredible causes. The number of foggy and stormy days recorded on which it was necessary to light candles at noonday, and impossible to travel the roads, are many. Such were August 9th, 1732, when New England was covered with darkness; the first day of January, 1807, when the sun was hidden by clouds in Essex Co., England; the 21st of October, 1816, in New England, when candles had to be lighted at mid-day; the 16th of October, 1783, when the blackness of night settled over Canada followed by a hurricane and thunder showers; and many others. The city of London, on May 10th, 1812, was overhung by a dark gloom which was supposed to have been caused by smoke suspended in a still atmosphere. And about London the fog was so thick on December 27th, 1813, that traffic was impossible, and the winter which followed this fog was of unusual severity. The famous dark day in New England, May 19, 1780, was of such an intense nature that the Connecticut Legislature had to adjourn. The sky was overcast with a thick layer of low-lying clouds, and the night following intensely dark. In 1873 all over Europe the light of the sun was partly shut out many days by a bluish haze and it gave rise to more scientific discussion than all the other dark days together.

A dry haze is common in Switzerland and it often hides the Alps from view in a season of fine weather. During the year 1783, when the phenomenon occurred, an epidemic catarrh of great severity prevailed throughout Europe. While the fog of 1783 lasted, there were twenty-three days of rain and twelve storms of wind. A similar dry mist was not far from Toulon after a heavy rain and hail storm, a deep mist that deposited a reddish matter having the qualities of lime and of a sweet taste, which he took to be dust caught up from the plains not far away, by the hurricane, and held suspended in the upper regions of the atmosphere during the rain storm, which lasted two days.

Colored snow is not unusual on the top of the Alps and Pyrenees. Famous red rains fell at Strasburg Aug. 12, 1623, at Brussels Oct. 6, 1640 and at Giesen May 3, 1821. A yellow rain fell in the Department of the Drome, France, in October, 1846 which drove the wild fowls into the village. The lakes in the Pyrenees after drying up in summer are re-stocked with fish conveyed there by storms. About the time when several of the dry mists noted in history occurred,

unusual volcanic disturbances took place. All Italy was overhung with a pall of darkness during the eruption of Vesuvius in which Pompeii was destroyed. Procopius relates that a rain of black dust fell in the vicinity of Constantinople in 472, during which the sky seemed to be on fire. In 1848 a reddish substance fell in Thuringia, which was preceded by the appearance of a globe of fire in the heavens.

"The last supposition, by which the day mists are ascribed to cosmic causes—to cosmic dust brought into the atmosphere of the earth and held in suspension, or to the partial ignition of meteorites according to Franklin's hypothesis—is supported by the evidence of several remarkable disturbances of nature, of which more or less authentic historical accounts are preserved."

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Notice—In the House of Representatives Jan. 26, a bill reported by Mr. Bland, of Missouri, to discontinue the coinage of 3 cent pieces was passed.

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Low priced approval sheets, F. P. HORTON,
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Send for November number of the

American Antiquarian

Containing priced list of Autographs

for sale. Please mention the CURIOSITY

WORLD, when answering this ad.

The Cardinal Redbird.

(*Cardinalis Virginianus*.)

To the gregarious family of birds belong many beautiful and interesting species. Among the number we find the subject of this sketch. This bird is perhaps the most interesting one of the genus. His wariness, his beautiful red plumage and his peculiar note and ways attract attention wherever he goes, and make him an object worthy of admiration and esteem, and bring him many encounters from both old and young.

Like the quail, this bird is strongly attached to the home of his forefathers, and would rather endure the severity of an Ohio winter than to undergo the labor and troubles incident to migration. Other birds, on hearing the shrill voice of the North Wind, put off for realms of perpetual warmth, and there they remain until comes the "springtime thaw." It is not thus with the Cardinal Redbird. There are no long journeys, no changing of climes for him. His holidays are spent at home and in guarding the haunts of the migrant species of the feathered tribe during their absence.

From the window at which the writer sits, though the weather is extremely cold and though the ground and all visible objects are covered or crowned with snow, no less than three members of the above-mentioned species may be seen sporting festively among the icy branches of a neighboring clump of trees. How sprightly, how gaily they sit about and how unmindful they are of their dreary surroundings—"how unconscious of care." Though beyond our hearing, their actions prove clearly that they are frequently uttering their short, sharp notes. Almost every movement of this bird is accompanied by one of these short, peculiar notes. When scared or startled by an intruder, these notes are more brisk than usual and are uttered in quick succession. These sharp calls invariably bring other members of the tribe to the scene of the disturbance. Each comes with ruffled feathers and uttering the same cry, thus announcing to their distressed brother their willingness to join hands in the issue at stake.

During the winter months these birds seem to be more numerous than at other periods of the year, but this is due to the fact that during these months of cold and snow they must frequently leave their haunts and come to our barns and dwellings in quest of food. And especially do they do this when the fields are white with snow, and it is at these periods that hunger partially overcomes their wariness and leads them into places where they may be captured, providing your traps are so arranged as not to excite their suspicions.

This bird, though kept a captive through many years, never completely overcomes its timidity or its fear of man. The two specimens in cages above the writer's head are always restless and watchful when a stranger or any member of the family approaches the cage. For several days after they were first imprisoned they would flutter about in a wild, excited manner and would beat violently against the sides of their prisons, and endeavor in every possible way to escape. Very frequently these birds refuse to eat, on being imprisoned, and owing partly to this fact and partly to the fact that they injure themselves in their violent efforts to escape, they die in one or two days. In fact the number that die during the first two or three days after confinement is about equal to the number that live.

In its wild, free state this bird seldom, if ever devotes time to the production of "charming carols." It does not then perhaps realize that the Creator has given it no ordinary musical powers, and that it is capable of producing notes divinely grand and sweet,—psalms that would often arrest the foot-fall on the grass and cause many a weary, soul sick mortal to pause in his journey to listen and then to glow with wonder and admiration. But imprisonment undoubtedly changes the nature of this charming bird. They say that saints immortal spend all their time singing hallelujahs and paying homage to the great Jehovah. We sometimes think, while listening to the grand, inspiring notes of this bird, that this feathered creature has persuaded itself into the belief that it has been transported from its native fields to a more sacred realm, and that it must now spend the remainder of its days in praising its Maker. To describe the notes of this bird, giving all the charming variations, is an impossibility to any writer, hence this part of my story must be left untold. We can only say that its notes are grand, strange, and possess a peculiar, indefinable fascination.

They are always loud and clear, and sometimes they seem to echo joy, and at other times to ring with woe. I have never listened to their carols but what I have been thrilled with a certain vague

undefined feeling, and felt like opening the cage door and setting the "captive at liberty."

The upper parts of this bird are of a dark red color, while the lower parts are of a lighter tint. The bird has an alar extent of about nine inches and measures nearly seven inches from the tip of its bill to the end of its tail. Their nests are built in divers places, but most generally in some thicket or thick-set hedge. They are always neatly formed. Small twigs, leaves, fibres and fine grasses enter into their composition. The eggs in a nest number from two to four, and are white in color, flecked at one end with brown.

The upper parts of the female Redbird are of a brownish color; the lower parts are a pale red inclining to white in a few places. Taken in all, the female is a very quiet and homely bird.

Its food consists of various seeds and grains, and it frequently partakes of certain fruits. During imprisonment it will feast freely upon apples, cooked or raw, bread and like substances.

S. ESTLE MILLER.

The Stamp Collectors' Commandments.

I.—Thou shalt have no other hobby but me (Philitately.)

II.—Thou shalt not make to thyself any cheap imitation of the noble art of stamp-sticking, viz., the collecting of crests, monograms, &c.; thou shalt not purchase thereof, or tamper with them, for I am a jealous art requiring all thy loose cash to be spent in acquiring Sydney Views and other trifles.

III.—Thou shalt not speak lightly of thy little pastime; neither shalt thou broach my name in an irreverent manner, lest thou be put to chagrin by the purchase of a—

IV.—Remember that thou hast six philatelic days wherein to acquire thy little rarities, but the seventh shalt thou consecrate to the arrangement of thine album (seeing that the shops are closed.)

V.—Honor my parental relation who ever he may have been; but seeing that my parentage has lately fallen into dispute, perhaps it would be as well to give respect to both the aspirants.

VI.—Murder not that valuable time which should be devoted to my service, but soak off and paste it as hard as thou art able. Remember that upon thy exertions depends the poor stamp-jobber.

VII.—Thou shalt not adulterate thy rare old colonial collection with such worthless pieces of paper as fac similes &c., the same being forgeries, and only surcharged to escape the law.

VIII.—Thou shalt not dishonorably acquire any addition to thy collection, by taking advantage of the innocence of juveniles who send thee uncalled for selections on approval; neither shalt thou change the stamps upon approval sheets, but return same "in good condition within 8 days," thus giving the little boys a chance.

IX.—Thou shalt not be envious of thy co-collector, but give him credit for having a collection as valuable as thine own, notwithstanding those little eccentricities which are to be met with in every album.

Should he have acquired such, put it down to his youth.

X.—Thou shalt not cast a lustful eye upon the contents of a stamp-shop window, but shouldst thou find thyself in possession of carnal desires, place thy hand upon the needful, and entering, prepare to meet thy fate.—[Philatelic Critic.]

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